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Photos and Interviews Available

FREE Hands-On Experience of Traditional Mexican Culture

POSADAS Y PASTORELAS A TRADITIONAL MEXICAN HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

Sunday, December 18, 2011 • 12:00 PM – 5:00 PM
Museum of the City of New York
1220 Fifth Avenue at 103rd Street, Manhattan

All events are free with Museum admission. Bring the family!

New York, NY, December 8, 2011 -- Get into the holiday spirit a la mexicana. Join **Mano a Mano: Mexican Culture Without Borders** for its eighth annual presentation of **Posadas y Pastorelas**, a holiday celebration promoting the popular traditions of the Mexican community of New York, featuring crafts, music, and food for families. Highlights include Piñatamania, a mega workshop where scores of visitors make individual piñatas; the Posada, a singing holiday procession with mariachi through the streets of El Barrio, and a Pastorela, the traditional shepherds play. The event culminates in a party with refreshments and the breaking of candy-filled piñatas. All workshops and events are free with paid museum admission.

POSADAS are Mexican celebrations dating back to the colonial period. Posada -- literally meaning "lodging"-- commemorates the journey of Mary and Joseph from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Traditionally, these festivities take place in private homes over nine nights, culminating with the most important posada on Christmas Eve. At a posada, the guests participate in an outdoor procession near the home, singing special songs called *villancicos*. After successfully requesting posada, the guests are joyfully admitted into the house and given *aguinaldos* -- goody baskets containing fruits and candy.

PASTORELAS or Shepherds' Plays are performed in Mexico during the Christmas season and have their roots in the early Christian theater of Europe in the middle ages. Pastorelas -- like other folk dramas -- were introduced to Mexico by the colonizers with the goal of converting the indigenous population to Christianity. By the time of Mexico's Independence, pastorelas were incorporated into village tradition and the plays are performed seasonally through today. Pastorelas depict the battle between good and evil. Their characters are naive shepherds and their divine counterparts, wily devils, archangels as well as Joseph, Mary, the infant Jesus and the Three Kings. Dialogues in pastorelas are usually spoken in rhyme and the plays conclude as good triumphs and the shepherds arrive at the manger to adore "el Niño Dios".

This year the students and volunteers of Mano a Mano will be performing the pastorela which they also co-authored.

Complete Schedule

12:00 – 2:00 PM: Piñatamania – Mega workshop on making piñatas
2:30 PM: Neighborhood Posada procession with Mariachi Tapatío de Álvaro Paulino
3:00 PM: Cultural Performance / Pastorela
4:00PM: Posada party with piñatas & much more with Yolanda Leticia, the Ambassador of Mexican Song, as Emcee!

Traditional Mexican food is available for purchase throughout the event.

Posadas y Pastorelas is free with Museum admission. Suggested Contribution: \$15 family; \$9 adults; \$5 seniors, students, children

About Mano a Mano and the Museum of the City of New York

Mano a Mano: Mexican Culture Without Borders is a New York-based non-profit organization 501(c)(3) dedicated to celebrating Mexican culture and promoting the understanding of Mexican traditions through Mexicanidad, an arts, culture and humanities program, and annual celebrations of holidays (Day of the Dead/Día de los Muertos; Christmas/Posadas y Pastorelas), as well as festivals, concerts, performances, processions, installations and seminars. Mexicans and New York area residents celebrate the richness and diversity of Mexican arts in five key areas: music, dance, visual arts, verbal arts and ritual, and culinary traditions. www.manoamano.us

The Museum of the City of New York celebrates and interprets the city, educating the public about its distinctive character, especially its heritage of diversity, opportunity, and perpetual transformation. Founded in 1923 as a private, non-profit corporation, the Museum connects the past, present, and future of New York City. It serves the people of New York and visitors from around the world through exhibitions, school and public programs, publications, and collections. www.mcny.org

Directions:

Subway: #6 Lexington Avenue train to 103rd Street, walk three blocks west, or #2 or #3 train to Central Park North (110th Street), walk one block east to Fifth Avenue, then south to 103rd Street.

Bus: M1, M3, M4 or M106 to 104th Street, M2 to 101st Street.

Accessibility: The Museum of the City of New York welcomes all visitors and strives to accommodate visitors of all abilities. Specialized tours are available upon request. Please call 212.534.1672, ext. 3393 for more information.

For more information about this event, please visit: www.manoamano.us, call 212-587-3070 or email: info@manoamano.us.

Posadas y Pastorelas celebration is presented in part with the support of the Museum of the City of New York. Additional funding is provided in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council; the New York State Council on the Arts, a State Agency.

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