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Day of the Dead
Mano a Mano: Mexican Culture Without Borders
Presents Four-Day Mexican Celebration
October 30th - November 2nd
St. Mark's Church in-the-Bowery
Free

New York, NY, October 9, 2008. Mano a Mano: Mexican Culture Without Borders www.manoamano.us hosts its fifth annual Day of the Dead celebration with a variety of events and workshops to in the churchyard of St. Mark's (10th Street and Second Avenue in Manhattan) from October 30th to November 2nd. All events are free and open to the public.

The **Day of the Dead** has been one of Mexico's most important festivals since pre-Hispanic times. It is a time for families to gather and welcome the souls of the dead on their annual visit home. *Cempasúchil* (marigold) flowers, burning copal incense, fresh *pan de muertos* bread, candles, sugar skulls, photographs and mementos of the departed adorn special altars. In Mexico, the **Day of the Dead** is celebrated over an entire week with the preparation of altars, foods, dance, music and special offerings for people who have died. Mano a Mano recreates the magical space of a village churchyard during the celebration of **Day of the Dead** and has organized a series of events including altar-building, workshops, dance, poetry and music. This is a great opportunity for New Yorkers to remember their own departed loved-ones by bringing photographs, candles and flowers to adorn the altar throughout the week.

On Thursday, October 30th, visitors of all ages can join artists and volunteers in altar building from 2:00-6:00 pm. At 6:30 pm, Mexican dancers from throughout the city will be assembling at Union Square to walk in procession to the altar. There will be a moving dedication of the altar with dancers from 7 – 8:00pm.

From Friday, October 31st through Sunday, November 2nd, visitors of all ages can attend workshops where they will learn traditional Mexican paper crafts, sugar skull making, bread making and poetry writing. Each of the four workshops will be happening simultaneously (see schedule below), so guests can move from one to another, or try a couple one day, and come back for the others the next. All of these workshops are geared to teaching the special foods, crafts and traditions practiced in Mexico for this important holiday.

Performances by guest artists La Carpa and Semilla will take place Friday and Saturday evenings respectively (see schedule below). The celebration will end with a performance by Mariachi Tapatio de Alvaro Paulino. During this time, the public is invited to come share the bread and flowers and join in the clearing away of the altar.

All events are free and open to the public.

Mexican food will be available for purchase throughout the event, including:

Hot drinks:

Atole (Hot gruel flavored with cinnamon), Chocolate caliente (Hot chocolate)

Traditional dishes:

Chicken with mole sauce (chiles and chocolate)

Tamales and sopes (Corn based dumplings with different toppings and fillings)

Desserts:

Calabaza dulce y conservas (Caramelized pumpkin chunks with preserves)

Churros (Extruded fry dough)

Mexican sodas and chips

Schedule of Events:

Thursday, October 30

2-6pm: Workshop in altar building

6:30pm: Traditional Dance Procession Assembles at Union Square

7-8pm: Traditional Dancers Arrive at St. Mark's for Ceremony at the Altar

Friday, October 31

6-8pm: Three Workshops: Paper Crafts for Day of the Dead, Sugar Skulls, Day of the Dead Bread

7-8pm: Performance by La Carpa: "Bailando Con la Más Fea" (Dancing with the Ugliest One);

"Francisco y la Muerte" (Francisco and Death); "El Leñador" (The Firewood Collector) –Three short theatrical pieces, based on traditional stories, performed in Spanish with English translation

Saturday, November 1 – All Saints' Day

3-5pm: Four Workshops: Paper Crafts for Day of the Dead, Sugar Skulls, Day of the Dead Bread, Poetry for Day of the Dead

7-8pm: Performance by Semilla: Traditional Fandango from México

Sunday, November 2 - All Souls' Day

4-6pm: Four Workshops: Paper Crafts for Day of the Dead, Sugar Skulls, Day of the Dead Bread, Poetry for Day of the Dead

6-7pm: Musical Performance by Mariachi Tapatio de Alvaro Paulino

7-8:00pm Taking Down of Altar by Public

How to Get There: Subway: #6 to Astor Place, L to 3rd Avenue, F to Second Avenue, or any train to Union Square. Bus: M8, M15, M101, M102, M103.

Accessibility: This event is wheelchair accessible.

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

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