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POSADAS Y PASTORELAS A TRADITIONAL MEXICAN HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

Sunday, December 19, 2010 • 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, November 17, 2010 -- Get into the holiday spirit *a la mexicana*. Join **Mano a Mano: Mexican Culture Without Borders** for its seventh 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 a workshop in making traditional *tamales* and punch; *Piñatomania*, 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".

Complete Schedule

12:00 – 1:00 PM:

Holiday Flavors - Workshop on making tamales and punch (Sponsored by Goya Food)

1:30 – 2:30 PM:

Piñatamania – Mega workshop on making piñatas

3:00 - 3:30 PM:

Cultural Performance / *Pastorela* Shepherds' Play

3:30 – 4:00 PM:

Neighborhood *Posada* procession with Mariachi Tapatio de Alvaro Paulino

4:00 – 5:00 PM:

Posada party with piñatas & much more with Yolanda Leticia, the Ambassador of Mexican Song, as Mistress of Ceremonies! (Sponsored by City Council Member Melissa Mark-Viverito and Goya Foods).

Traditional Mexican food is available for purchase throughout the event.

Children and adults alike will enjoy face painting, Mexican dance, Museum tours, *aguinaldo* goody bags and much more!

Posadas y Pastorelas is free with Museum admission (pay what you wish). Suggested Admission: Adults: \$10; Seniors, students: \$6; Families: \$20 (max. 2 adults); Children 12 and under are free.

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

Mano a Mano: Mexican Culture Without Borders is a nonprofit organization (501(c) 3) in its tenth year of presenting major collaborative cultural events in the New York City area. Composed of Mexicans and Mexican-Americans of many generations and occupations, the Mano a Mano team strives to present the rich range of Mexican cultural forms. Visit our active calendar of events, our new educational initiative, *Mexicanidad*, and our immigrant artist development initiative (funded by the National Endowment for the Arts) at 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.

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. An accessible entrance is available on 104th Street between Fifth Avenue and Madison Avenue. Headsets and neck loops for hard of hearing visitors are available for programs in the Museum auditorium. A wheelchair lift is available for access to the Museum Auditorium, and all exhibition videos are open-captioned.



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

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