



Press Release

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**The Center for Traditional Music and Dance
in collaboration with the American Museum of Natural History &
the Mexican Cultural Institute of New York presents:**

LIVING IN AMERICA THE MEXICAN COMMUNITY

Three Weekends at the American Museum of Natural History - January 11 & 12; January 18 & 19;
January 25-26 - Saturday & Sunday, 12 – 5:30 p.m.

This year's annual public program series is devoted to celebrating the contributions that Mexican immigrants are making to the cultural life of New York City, through performances of music and dance, films, lectures, panel discussions, and workshops on dance and crafts (a complete program schedule is attached). This rich offering occurs over three consecutive weekends beginning January 11th—all events are free with Museum admission unless otherwise indicated. Each weekend is devoted to a specific theme: **The Mexican Immigrant Experience**, highlighting Música Norteña (Jan. 11-12th); **Mexican Indigenous Culture** (Jan.18-19th) and a **Mexican Family Weekend**, highlighting Mariachi Music and Ballet Folklórico (Jan. 25-26th).

- Saturdays will feature performances by the **Los Diamantes de Puebla** (Música Norteña), **Estampas y Tradiciones** (Regional and Indigenous Dance), **Guadalupe Ross** (Náhuatl Songs) **Mariachi Real de Mexico** and **Ballet Folklórico de Nueva York**.
- Sundays will feature film programs including screenings and panels.
- Workshops occur throughout the weekends. Visitors can learn Norteño, Indigenous and Folklórico Dance. Craft workshops feature Piñata-Making, Oaxacan Woodcarving and Papel Picado (papercutting). Workshops are \$5 and require advance registration (call 212 769 5200 or visit www.amnh.org/programs).
- Thought-provoking Lecture/Demonstrations, Roundtable Discussions, Storytelling and Lecture events will enrich visitors' understanding of the rich Mexican experience in the New York area.

LIVING IN AMERICA – THE MEXICAN COMMUNITY

Complete Schedule

WEEK ONE: THE MEXICAN IMMIGRANT EXPERIENCE

JANUARY 11 & 12, 2003

Workshop: Norteño Dance

Saturday and Sunday, January 11 and 12

12:00–1:00 p.m.

Rose Center Classroom, second floor

Fee: \$5 (Limit: 20 participants, ages 8 and up)

Learn dance forms including the *huapango norteño*, polka and *paso doble* with members of **Ballet Folklórico Mexicano de Nueva York**.

Performance: Música Norteña

Saturday, January 11

1:15–2:15 p.m. and 4:15–5:15 p.m.

Kaufmann Theater, first floor

Los Diamantes de Puebla, a Bronx-based trio, presents its *música norteña* repertoire.

Lecture/Demonstration: Música Norteña

Saturday, January 11, 2:30–3:30 p.m.

Sunday, January 12, 1:00–2:15 p.m.

Linder Theater, first floor

Brothers **Santiago** and **Pablo Javier** of **Suspenseo del Norte** discuss the centrality of *música norteña* to the Mexican immigrant experience with ethnomusicologist **Cathy Ragland**.

Workshop: Piñata-Making

Saturday, January 11, 3:45–5:30 p.m.

Sunday, January 12, 12:00–2:00 p.m.

Calder Lab, second floor

Fee: \$5 (Limit: 20 participants, ages 8 and up)

The colorful, treat-filled *piñata* has been a staple at community celebrations and life cycle events in Mexico since the 16th century. *Piñata* maker **Aurelia Fernandez** teaches the craft.

Roundtable: Voices from El Barrio: Testimonies of Mexican Migrants in New York

Sunday, January 12

2:30–3:45 p.m.

Linder Theater, first floor

Mexican immigrants discuss their experiences coming to and living in the United States with **Erika Vilfort** of the Mexican Cultural Institute of New York.

Film Program: Seen, But Not Heard

Sunday, January 12

4:00–5:45 p.m.

Linder Theater, first floor

Seen, But Not Heard (Calogero Salvo, U.S./Mexico, 2002, 56 min.) follows the lives of Mexican women whose undocumented husbands and partners lost their lives in the tragic events of 9/11. A discussion with the filmmaker and special guests follows. The animated short, **Crónicas de Manhatitlán/The Manhatitlán Chronicles** (Felipe Galindo, U.S./Mexico, 2000, 7 min.) will also be shown.

**WEEK TWO: THE “GREAT MANHATTILÁN”: MEXICAN INDIGENOUS CULTURE IN
NEW YORK
JANUARY 18 & 19, 2003**

Workshop: Oaxacan Woodcarving

Saturday and Sunday, January 18 and 19

12:00–3:00 p.m.

Calder Lab, second floor

Fee: \$5 (Limit: 20 participants, ages 8 and up)

Isidoro Cruz demonstrates the carving techniques and designs of *alebrijes*, brightly painted, whimsical wooden animal sculptures produced in the Oaxacan valley.

Performance: Mixteca and Náhuatl Songs and Dances

Saturday, January 18

1:15–2:15 p.m. and 4:30–5:30 p.m.

Kaufmann Theater, first floor

One of New York’s finest Mexican dance groups, **Estampas y Tradiciones**, performs indigenous dances from Guerrero and Puebla.

Workshop: Mixteca and Náhuatl Dance

Saturday, January 18, 2:15–3:15 p.m.

Sunday, January 19, 12:00–1:00 p.m.

Leonhardt People Center, second floor

Fee: \$5 (Limit: 20 participants, ages 8 and up)

The dance ensemble **Estampas y Tradiciones** demonstrates and teaches indigenous dance traditions of Guerrero and Puebla.

Lecture: Mexican Migration in New York: History and Perspectives

Saturday, January 18

3:30–4:30 p.m.

Linder Theater, first floor

Robert Smith, Assistant Professor of Sociology at Barnard College, discusses Mexican migration to New York from Puebla and its enduring impact on both sides of the border.

Film Program: Generation Mex: Mexican Film and Videomakers in New York

Sunday, January 19

2:30–5:30 p.m.

Linder Theater, first floor

Five films/videos highlight the creative output of Mexicans in New York. A panel discussion about careers, issues of identity, and film narrative with Mexican and Mexican-American filmmakers living in New York follows the screenings, moderated by **Carlos A. Gutiérrez** of Cinema Tropical. Panelists include **Bernardo Ruiz**, **Cristina Ibarra**, **Patricia Riggen**, and **Alfredo de Villa**. Screenings include:

- **Crónicas de Manhatitlán/The Manhatitlán Chronicles** (Felipe Galindo, U.S./Mexico, 2000, 7 min.) An animated flight of fancy transposing Mexican cultural elements on the Manhattan cityscape.
- **Night Magic** (Bernardo Ruiz, U.S., 2002, 17 min.) Despite mounting obstacles, José endures in pursuit of his dream to become a magician.
- **Dirty Laundry** (Cristina Ibarra, U.S., 2000, 15 min.) This short film offers a humorous look at border culture, Catholicism, puberty, and the hidden pleasures of the spin cycle.
- **La Milpa/The Cornfield** (Patricia Riggen, Mexico/U.S., 2001, 27 min.) Angela remembers her youth during the Mexican Revolution, when myths, sensuality, war, and pain were part of daily life.
- **Neto’s Run** (Alfredo de Villa, U.S., 1999, 16 min.) Neto struggles to save enough to bring his family from the Dominican Republic to New York City. A local drug lord may be his only hope in his quest.

WEEK THREE: MEXICAN FAMILY WEEK
JANUARY 25 & 26, 2003

Workshop: Papel Picado

Saturday and Sunday, January 25 and 26

12:00–2:00 p.m.

Calder Lab, second floor

Fee: \$5 (Limit: 20 participants, ages 8 and up)

Local artist **Miguel Angel Cossio** instructs children and adults in the dynamic and ephemeral Mexican folk art of *papel picado* (papercutting).

Performance: Festive Mexican Music and Dance

Saturday, January 25

1:15–2:15 p.m. and 4:15–5:15 p.m.

Kaufmann Theater, first floor

The well-known Queens-based group, **Mariachi Real de Mexico**, joins **Ballet Folklórico Mexicano de Nueva York** to present classic favorites.

Discussion: Conversation with El Mariachi: A Family Tradition

Saturday, January 25, 2:15–2:45 p.m.

Sunday, January 26, 12:00–1:30 p.m.

Kaufmann Theater, first floor

A conversation with members of the **Mariachi Real de Mexico** explores the importance of passing on this musical tradition and the effects of immigrating to the United States, moderated by ethnomusicologist, **Cathy Ragland**.

Workshop: Ballet Folklórico Mexicano

Saturday, January 25

3:00–4:00 p.m.

Leonhardt People Center, second floor

Fee: \$5 (Limit: 20 participants, all ages welcome)

Members of **Ballet Folklórico Mexicano de Nueva York** teach Mexican regional dances, such as the *huapango*, *jarabe*, and *zorongo*.

Workshop: Calaveras

Saturday, January 25, 3:30–5:30 p.m.

Sunday, January 26, 3:00–5:00 p.m.

Calder Lab, second floor

Fee: \$5 (Limit: 20 participants, all ages welcome)

Delia Aponte, originally from Puebla, Mexico, offers a hands-on workshop on making sugar *calaveras* (skulls), a women's tradition associated with *Día de los muertos* (Day of the Dead).

Performance/Workshop: Cuentos: Tales about Mexicans in the United States

Sunday, January 26

1:00–2:30 p.m.

People Center, second floor

Fee: \$5 (Limit: to 50 participants, ages 7 and up)

Storyteller **David González** weaves inspiring tales and stories about Mexicans who left their homeland to find a better life in America.

Film Program: La Ciudad: Cuatro Años Despues/ The City: Four Years Later

Sunday, January 26

2:30–5:30 p.m.

Linder Theater, first floor

This session includes the screening of the critically acclaimed film **La Ciudad/The City** (David Riker, U.S., 1999, 88 min), a dramatically photographed collection of stories about love, hope, and loss, and an affecting portrait of disenfranchised Latin American immigrants living in New York , followed by a panel which reflects on its impact four years later. Panelists include the filmmaker and several of the film's actor, moderated by Alejandra Leal, doctoral candidate in anthropology at Columbia University. The animated short, **Crónicas de Manhatitlán/The Manhatitlán Chronicles** (Felipe Galindo, U.S./Mexico, 2000, 7 min.), will also be shown.

For more information, call 212 769 5315 or visit www.amnh.org/programs or www.ctmd.org

American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) is located at Central Park West at 79th Street and is open daily, 10:00 a.m.-5:45 p.m. Please give yourself extra time to find program venues.

Subway: C to 81st Street or the 1 and 9 to 79th Street.

Bus: The M79 to W. 81st Street. M7, M10, M11, M86 & M104 stop nearby.

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