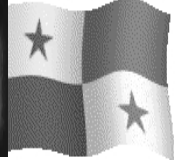




VIVA PANAMA ORGANIZATION



(A project of Multiethnic Peace and Reconstruction Fund)

commemorating

*Panama's Centennial & Its
International Week Proclamation*



presents

*Ballet Folklórico Panameño
de Elisa de Céspedes*

August 15, 2003, 8:30 p.m.

John Anson Ford Amphitheatre, Hollywood, California

Special thanks to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors for their continuing support of the John Anson Ford Theatres, a County Regional Park operated by the Los Angeles County Arts Commission.



Ballet Folklórico Panameño de Elisa de Céspedes

Ballet Folklórico Panameño, was the first company to present choreographic shows keeping the most profound roots and tradition of our folklore.

Since 1969, the Ballet has performed in many cities of South America and North America. In Europe the Ballet has performed at the Expo Fair 2000 in Hanover, Germany; in 1992 Expo Seville in Spain, and a tour in Italy. The Ballet has performed for high-level dignitaries, and conventions and several times in Disney World, Orlando, they participated at the Tenth Anniversary of Disney World, in Epcot Center. In South America, at the Festival of Viña del Mar, in Chile. The Ballet has been broadcasted on television networks such as: Venevision, Univision, Telemundo, and also on European TV shows.

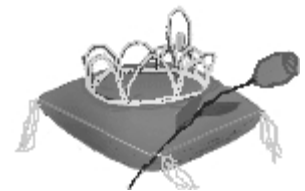
At a national level, they promote tourism with The Instituto Panameño de Turismo, (IPAT-Panamanian Tourism Bureau). The Ballet has performed for High-level dignitaries, conventions and different activities.

In 1999, the Ballet received the Award as the Best Folkloric Group of Panama on the National Broadcast Program "Aires de Mi Tierra". In December 31, 1999, they performed during the Ceremony of the Transfer of the Panama Canal. Also performed at the special affair given by the Panamanian government to Presidents during the Tenth Iberoamerican Summit.

Patricia Sturla
Studios inc.

"Descubriendo y Proyectando Talento Latino"
(714) 491-7237 (213) 480-3049

www.PatriciaSturlaStudio.com



www.misspanamerican.com

*Prof. Elisa de
Céspedes*



Director & Choreographer

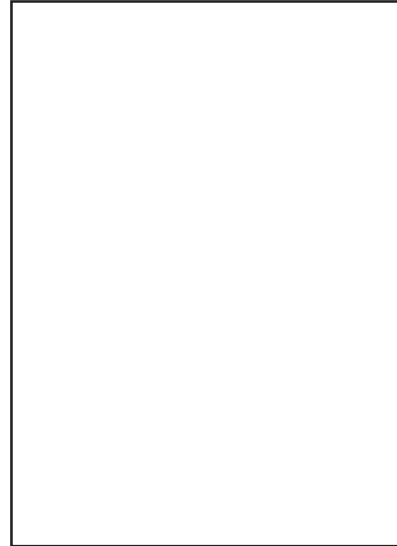
The founder, choreographer, and dancer, has trained thousands of students to learn the different rhythms of the Panamanian Folkloric dance. She was born in Panama City and studied in Costa Rica and Colombia. This constant innovator mastered her knowledge in chorographical dances at the Panamerican Academy in Los Angeles, California.

Elisa Ramos de Céspedes founded the Ballet Folklórico Panameño in October 17, 1969, a product of her love and passion for the Panamanian music and folkloric tradition. This Panamanian woman knew since her childhood that art was to be her life work. She has received many decorations and awards for her brilliant and restless contributions to the Folklore of Panama in her hometown and abroad.

In 1998, Raul Peimbert, reporter and CBS channel anchor of the program “América Habla”, a program dedicated to interviewing Latino American personalities; featured Elisa de Céspedes, to showcase her outstanding work with the Ballet Folklórico Panameño.



*Ing. Luis A. Díaz
M.*



Artistic Director

Industrial Engineer, Luis began his first dancing steps with the Ballet Folklórico Panameño in 1975, when he was studying folklore in High school under direction of Prof. Elisa de Céspedes.

With the Ballet Folklórico Panameño, he participated in numerous folkloric events in different cities in Central, North and South America, and also in European cities. In 1989, Prof. Céspedes, nominated him as the Artistic Director of the Folkloric Ballet. Together with Prof. Céspedes, they design and create the choreography of every dance. Also they select and train every dancer.

Since 1990 until the present, he has assisted in the coordination of numerous successful events. Among them are: “Miss Panama Pageants”, the show of Sábado Sensacional from Venezuela, the Latin Model Pageant International in 1989, the Panamanian's Gastronomic Festival in Nicaragua, '92 Expo Seville in Spain, the Silver Anniversary of the Ballet Folklórico Panameño, and several tourist promotions sponsored by the Panamanian Tourism Bureau.



Performers

Ballet Folklórico Panameño de Prof. Elisa de Céspedes

Solo Dancers

Arq. Rosario Cardenas
Lic. Gisela Arosemena
Marilyn Bustamante
Dra. Fabiola Gamboa

Dra. Silia Alegría
Lic. Argelis Jaramillo
Lic. Yesenia Teira

Lic. Luis J. Rodríguez
Lic. Felix Julio
Henry Soto
Lic. Marcos Rodríguez

Carlos Ramsey
Lic. Tomas Arias
Prof. Osvaldo Escudero
George Ballesteros
Alexis González

Group Dancers

Arq. Yoira Barboni
Marleni Bustamante
Gianella Ameglio
Ofelina Castillo
Su Lyn Chung
Karen Cortes
Karin De Buc
Loris De León
Yamilis Degracia
Dalvis Herrera
Yamilka Arjona
Cristi López

Dra. Rebeca Melamed
Mayra López
Ana Cristina Mojica
Leslie Nieto
Evelyn Pérez
Raizza Rivera
Jaravi Rosales
Ana Barranco
Mailyn Aparicio
Iliana De Los Ríos
Dayra Sánchez
Licda. Zaida Saavedra

Carlos Forero
Lic. Lukas Guardia
Luis Carlos Pereira
César Fernández
Andrés Carballo
Gabrie Lezcano
Denis Castillo
Mauricio Murgas
Enriquez Villalaz
Cristian. Barrera

Musicians



Accordion: Lic. Héctor Espino
Drum 1: Lic. Ricaute Villarreal
Drum 2: Prof. Victor Ruíz
Caja: Prof. Carlos Wilson
Churuca: Prof. Jorge Ballesteros
Guitar: Prof. Feliciano Mercado

Repertoire...

Panama is a melting pot of races and cultures, and in the same way as the Atlantic and the Pacific bath it, tonight's repertoire is a series of waves by Panama throughout time, races and geography.

We invite you to discover PANAMA through the rhythm of its music, the precision of its dances, the luxury of its costumes, and the elegance of its movements.

African Wave

The Afro-colonials are the descendants of African slaves brought by the Spaniards to work in the farms, mines and pearl fisheries as early as the first half of the 16th century. In 1509, Diego de Nicosia brought the first 20 slaves from Santo Domingo. They were brought to build ports in the area now called Nombre de Dios. On August 15, 1519, the Old Panama City (Panama Viejo) was founded by Pedro Arias de Avila, who used Black slaves to build most of the major structures in the old city which included the famous **Old Panama City Tower, King's Bridge**, etc. There was a group of Black slaves, who rebelled against the Spaniards called Cimarrons, the rebels fled in the bushes to live a free and savage life. The slaves worked hard day and night, and in moment of relaxation at night, they expressed their feelings through their music and dance, Cumbia, African word that means, "to make noise".

Zaracunde: Dance with an African background performed by the slaves, hidden from their patrons and managers. One slave seeks to court his master's daughter.

Darienita: dance from the province of Darien.

Tambor Congo is a native dance from the province of Colón. The couples dance with very sensual and energetic movements following the rhythms of the drums.

The Afro-Antilleans are descendants of English-speaking black immigrants from Caribbean islands (Barbados, Jamaica and French Antilles), who arrived to Panamá as a consequence of the building of a Trans-Isthmian railroad in 1850, the French attempt at digging an Interoceanic canal in 1880, the American construction of the canal in 1904 and the development in Bocas del Toro of the banana industry by the United Fruit Company in the last decades of the 19th century; and of course, Panamanian Culture got another flavor with their legacy and **Banana Boat** is inspired on their folklore.

Religious Wave

With the arrival of the Spaniards to the Isthmus, also their religion came with them. The Priests came to teach and convert the native population to the Catholicism. One of the ways they utilized to teach the principles of Good and Evil was through the very ancient theater representation, known since 1150 in Spain.



Diablitos Sucios (Dirty Devils): This is a dance performed during Corpus Christi festivities in the region of Los Santos in which the dancers called "Dirty Devils" show their tap dancing skills following the rhythm of the guitar and mejoranera (small guitar).

Countryside Wave

As our beautiful Panama continued to grow and advance, its people also did it in their ideologies and traditions, and in Las Tablas, cradle of folklore. Their popular and democratic spirit produced what we have now as part of our Traditional dances, which is result of the mixture of drums and rhythms of African background with the elegance and the coloring of the Spanish background.

Socavón del Canajagua: Young male peasants show their dancing skills to conquer the love of their female.

Vocal Performance





Gallina: Choreographic arrangement mimicking the ritual of mating between the rooster and the hen.

Native Indian Wave:

Prior to the Conquest of Central America, Mexico, and Peru, great civilizations in the Americas had developed high cultural values. The Isthmus produced civilizations of outstanding achievements, not ranking however with the Aztec, Maya or Inca. However, there is evidence that their religious perspective was of a higher order, as they did not have the human sacrifices common in Mexico. The following are dances from two of our present native groups:

Kuna Indian Dance (Dance of the Seashell):

Before the arrival of the Spanish conquerors, our native Indians have been using the conch to call for meetings and community works. This dance simulates the spiral movements of the conch. The male dancers play the Flute (*cammu-pruwui*) and the females play the maracas (*na'*).

Cumbia Sentimientos del Alma: dance performed by **Ballet Folklórico Viva Panamá**, official dance company from Viva Panama Organization (Host of this celebration) and directed by Victor Grimaldo.

Intermission

The Folklore and traditions get stronger in the countryside, building the bases for what we have now. Ladies wear Montunas, daily costume en the countryside.

Cumbia Chorrerana: joyful and happy dance from the city of La Chorrera.

Atravesao de Tres: This is one of the most exciting dances of the Panamanian folklore.

Ladies wear the elegant and luxurious **Pollera de Gala**, used in big festivities such as Carnival and main festivities in town. The following are dances from the beginning of the 20th century performed at the high society ballrooms of those times. Female dancers wear the **White Pollera**, used in religious occasions such as weddings and saint patron's celebrations.

Ballroom dances were enjoyed at the beginning of the 20th Century such as Polka Dance and Ballroom Cumbia.

El Punto: the most romantic, aristocratic and elegant of all our folk dances, originated in the ballrooms of our aristocratic society and it is considered the Wedding Dance.

Denesa Poblana: regional dance of the Tonosi Valley.

Panama "The Green": honoring the abundance of forest and green vegetation in our beautiful country.

La Espina: this is a challenge of tap dancing between two males trying to conquer the love of a woman.

Viva Panama: A ballroom Cumbia honoring our national sovereignty, dance full of movements and feelings.

Atravesao Colectivo: this is another dance in which the females can display their national costume, in a variety of choreographic segments.



Carnival in Panama: when thinking of Carnival, most people will think of Rio de Janeiro in Brazil, or New Orleans in the United States...but did you know that Panama's carnival is the second largest in the world? Celebrated since the early 1900's, Panama's Carnival officially begins the fourth day before Ash Wednesday; however, many celebrations begin earlier. On the actual Carnival days, most work comes to a complete stop and the main streets of Panama City are filled with parades, floats, masks, costumes and confetti. The largest celebrations take place in Panama City and Las Tablas (130 miles west of Panama City, is considered by many the best place to celebrate Carnival). The atmosphere is more folkloric and enlivened by an intense, traditional rivalry between "High street" and "Low Street" for the fanciest costumes and most creative floats, under the rhythm of the Murga, popular music for the Panamanians).

TACA: La Flota más Nueva de América



GRUPO
TACA

En Grupo TACA hemos cumplido con nuestro compromiso de renovación de flota, enteramente compuesta por nuevos aviones Airbus A-320 y A-319. Con nuevos aviones, le ofrecemos:

- Mayor comodidad al viajar, gracias a cabinas más anchas y motores más silenciosos.
- Más espacio para equipaje.
- Más vuelos sin escala principalmente desde nuestros Centros de Conexión en Lima, San José y El Salvador.
- Una mejor operación a tiempo.

En adición al servicio de jets dentro de Centro América, nuestras líneas regionales asociadas, operan aviones ATR-42 y Cessna Grand Caravan.



TACA: The Newest Fleet in the Americas

We have completed our fleet renewal composed entirely of new Airbus A-320 and A-319.

With new aircraft we can offer you:

- A more comfortable flight experience onboard wider cabins with more efficient, quiet engines.
- More baggage capacity.
- More direct flights mainly out of our Lima, San Jose and El Salvador hubs.
- Enhanced on time performance.

In addition to Intra-Central America jet service, our associated Regional Airlines operate ATR-42's and Cessna Grand Caravan aircraft.

VIVA PANAMA ORGANIZATION

Salvador Gómez Gochéz & Isabel Cárdenas from Salvadoran American National Association and their constant support.

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors:
Yvonne Burke – Chair, Gerardo Pinedo, Elia Cervantes, Nancy Reyes, Glenda Wina, Ginger Barnard.

Carmen Paredes & Reyna - Grupo TACA.

Marek Cabrera & Olivia Aleman - La Opinion.

Patricia Sturla Studio - Patricia Sturla, Ana Marshall, Irma Ribbon, and their models.

Marie Tostado -Miss Panamerican International.

Diana Garnand - Visual Purple Graphics.

Thanks to our Ballet Folklórico Viva Panamá for their generous sponsorship and support:

Dancers: Vania Araúz, Paula Constable, Laura Echevers, Ingri & Diana Espinoza, Víctor Grimaldo, Javier Hernández, Manuel Jaén, Jairo Laws, Javier Ramos, Loira Ramos, Alfonso & Yessica Schessler, Amaris Serracín.

Viva Panama Organization Board of Directors for their hard work and energy:

Victor Grimaldo – General Director
Marlene Sánchez –Administrative & Protocol Director, Ben Hernández – Budget & Auditory Director, Jorge Crastz – Treasurer & Cultural Events Director, Amaris Serracín – Secretary
Tatiana Berman – Public Relations Director
Jairo Laws – Community Relations Director
Pedro Mojica – SocioEconomical Development Director
Ana Marshall – Fund Raising Director

Copa Airlines
copaair.com

The fastest way to connect with the Americas, on time. Copa Airlines' modern new fleet consists of twelve Boeing 737-700 "Next Generation" airplanes.



Ford Amphitheatre:

David Pier, Linda Chiavaroli, Susanna Erdos, Sarah Watland, Arthur Trow-bridge, Patrick Brown, Ralph Flores, Chris Diamonds,



Liriola Pittí & Dalel de Sanchez-
Panama Tourism Bureau.

S.E. Dominador Kayser Bazán -
VicePresident of Panama.

Lic. Fernando Daly - General
Consul of Panama.

Special Thanks to Prof. Elisa de Céspedes, for their wonderful performance, to Horacio Prado for his talent and good will bringing sis Summer collection "Roots", and of course to our sweet & beautiful Justine Pasek - Miss Universe 2002 for her support and friendship.

La Opinión

www.laopinion.com