

Folklorico de Mexico de Amalia Hernandez - Quick Center for the Arts, Fairfield, CT

The [Ballet Folklórico de Mexico de Amalia Hernández](#) celebrated the **history of Mexican folklore culture** and **dance** with a spectacular evening of performances with 56 dancers and 16 musicians at the [Quick Center for the Arts, Fairfield University](#) in **Fairfield, Connecticut**.

Columbia Artists Music LLC and the **Quick Center for the Arts** proudly presented an exciting evening with the **Amalia Hernández's Ballet Folklórico de Mexico** in conjunction with the [Mexico Tourism Board](#) on February 26, 2010. Founded in 1952 by dancer and choreographer **Amalia Hernández**, the **Ballet Folklórico de Mexico**, based in **Mexico City, Mexico** has delighted audiences around the world with over 15,000 performances in 60 countries and 300 cities.

Mexico is a country rich in history, culture, and art; and each of the 31 states of Mexico has its own distinct flavor of cultural traditions, styles of music, and types of dance. The Ballet Folklórico de Mexico de Amalia Hernández brought a fine artistic interpretation of the many regions and the folklore traditions of the country through an extensive 10-part program that combined music, dance, and elaborate costumes into a stunning theatrical extravaganza that kept the audience enraptured throughout the evening.

The evening's program began with a selection entitled, **The Gods** that was described as, "a dialogue between man and his Gods as a summary of Aztec theology." This beautiful dance focused on the spiritual and the mystical elements of life. The second element of the program was entitled **Guerrero**, with the dancers performing the tap dance, **El Gusto**, typical of the towns Zirandaro and Altamiriano.



Colorful Dancers

The **Revolution of 1910** was the basis for this ballet that was dedicated to the *soldaderas*, the women who fought in the revolution alongside their men in the fight for Mexico's freedom. The ballet begins with young aristocrats dancing European polkas unconcerned about the ongoing fight for freedom going on around them, and progresses with the revolutionaries coming in and taking over the party and dancing their popular peasant dances including **La Adelita**, symbolizing Mexico's freedom.



Revolution of 1910

The **Charreada**, the original Mexican *rodeo*, was well represented with two dances, **The Rope Dance** with its exciting lasso work by the *charros*, the working ranch hands; and the **Country Love Dance**, where the dancers form a bow through choreographed dance movements using only their feet. Although we have seen this dance performed countless times during performances we have attended during our many visits to Mexico, this special dance continues to captivate each time that we see it performed.



The Rope Dance

Concluding the first part of the program was the **Tlacotalpan Festivity** marking the January 31st celebration of the Candelaria Virgin in the town of Tlacotalpan, characterized by the use of *mojigangas*, the elaborate large-scale puppets symbolizing cultural figures.



Tlacotalpan Festivity

After an intermission, the ballet commenced with **The Feather Dance**, which was inspired by the ancient custom of the *Zapotec Indians* who demonstrated hospitality and respect through music and dance. The costumes were magnificent with the dancers wearing elaborate feather headdresses while dancing intricate movements.



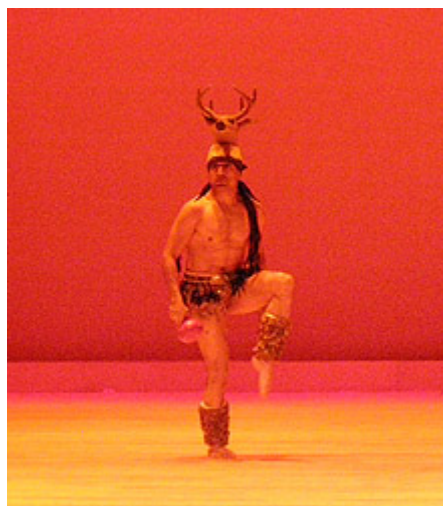
The Feather Dance

The Wedding in the Huasteca followed, which told the story of love, of rivals, and the many twists and turns that place before, during, and after a wedding. *Life Like a Game* begins with *The Plaza* (*Rondas*) with *Childhood Games* followed by *Games of Love*; and continues with *The Fair* featuring *Gambling Games*, *The Lottery*, *La Cucaracha*, *The Golden Fighting Cock*, *The Purple Fighting Cock*, and *The Little Death*; and *The Ball*: *Social Games*, *The Roulette*, and *Games of Death*.



Wedding in the Huasteca

The pre-Hispanic *Danza del Venado* (**Deer Dance**) based on the ritual of the *Yaqui*, the indigenous people of Northern Mexico, who have the reputation of being excellent hunters and hunt with bows and arrows. The Deer Dance is a ritual used for the preparation of a hunt to bring luck and bountiful profit for those who participate. This dramatic interpretation was beautifully presented and captured the spirit of the people.



Deer Dance

Created by: Debra C. Argen and Edward F. Nesta

Closing out the evening, was a marvelous *mariachi* performance with 16 musicians onstage representing the state of **Jalisco**, the state known for the *charros*, the *chinas*, and the *mariachis* which have come to symbolize Mexican hospitality, and was a wonderful way to end the spectacular festivities of the evening.



Mariachi

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For information on the **Ballet Folklórico de Mexico de Amalia Hernández**, please visit the website: www.BalletAmalia.com or send an email to: BalletAmalia@yahoo.com.mx.

For information on **Mexico**, please visit the website: www.VisitMexico.com.

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