

Ballet Hispánico

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR: EDUARDO VILARO



Workshops and Performance for Young People **Tres Cantos**

Program Information, Context, Activities, and Resources

Exploring Dance

Tres Cantos

Design Elements: props, costumes, lights, sound

Costumes, props, lighting, in addition to sound, play an important role in a performance. They work with the choreography to create a desired aesthetic effect.

Costume Designer Diana Ruettiger did extensive research to bring a different aesthetic to the piece from when it was first created in 1975. Her goal is to design costumes that represent what people wore at the time, that enhance the choreography, and that bring a contemporary feel to the Choreographer and Artistic Director's visions for the piece.



Original costumes
by Patricia Zipprodt



Ballet Hispanico Company in *Tres Cantos*
costumes redesigned by Diana Ruettiger



Suggested Activities

Activity A

- Divide students into groups of 4. Each individual in the group will have a specific role (Choreographer, Prop Designer, Lighting Designer and Costume Designer).
- Give each group a specific theme to explore or allow them to come up with their own theme in which they have to think through the choreography, props, lighting, and costuming they would want.
- Each person must find a way to represent their artistic choices visually. The choreographer may want to include music choices (but it is not necessary to the activity).
- Have each group share their theme and choices made to the group. They should be able to describe why they made the choices they made.

Activity B

- Discuss as a group the energy, shapes, and feel of the image on the following page in relation to lighting, costuming, and use of props. A short clip of *Tres Cantos* is also available on the Ballet Hispanico website to generate discussion.

Tres Cantos (1975) Talley Beatty

On a global perspective, Mexico celebrates the anniversary of two major historic events in its history: The 200th anniversary of independence from Spain, following its victory in the Mexican War of Independence; and the 100th anniversary of the Mexican Revolution. *Tres Cantos*, by choreographer Talley Beatty, is rooted in this Mexican history. It depicts the Spanish conquest of Mexico set to three songs (tres cantos) by Latin American composers. Each song distinguishes a different section of the dance. In the first section, the work portrays an Indian society in possession of its lands. The second section describes the victory of the conquistadores. The final section shows the re-emergence of the Indians' unconquered spirit. Students will see the second section of this piece in ¡Viajes!. Choreographed and first performed in 1975, the revival of *Tres Cantos* provides an important rebirth and retelling of Talley and Ballet Hispanico's unique perspectives in Latin American culture.



Talley Beatty (1918-1995)

Talley Beatty is one of the master choreographers of the 20th century with a career spanning dance, theatre, opera and television. Mr. Beatty began dancing with Katherine

Dunham before doing shows on Broadway. He then formed his own dance company, touring with a suite of dance styles derived from African and Latin American cultures. He also choreographed for the Boston Ballet, Inner City Dance Company of Los Angeles, and Alvin Ailey. From 1974 through 1985, Ballet Hispanico commissioned five works and made one acquisition from Mr. Beatty. "His self-described style is a mixture of Graham connective steps, Dunham technique, and a little ballet with Louisiana hot sauce on it."¹

¹Teren Damato Ellison, "Beatty, Talley," in *International Dictionary of Modern Dance*, ed. Dan McDonagh; Detroit: St. James Press, 1998

Exploring Dance

Tres Cantos

Design Elements: props, costumes, lights, sound: Activity B



Further Resources

Choreographers/Musicians

Talley Beatty

Long, Richard A. *The Black Tradition in American Dance*. Rizzoli International Publications, Inc., 1989

Perpener, John O. *African-American Concert Dance: The Harlem Renaissance and Beyond*. University of Illinois Press, 2001

Talley Beatty in: www.pbs.org/wnet/freetodance/-documentary that chronicles the role that African-American choreographers and dancers have played in the development of modern dance as an American art form

Douglas Rosenberg, dir., *Talley Beatty: Conversations with Contemporary Masters of American Modern Dance* (American Dance Festival, 1993)

Annabelle Lopez Ochoa - www.redcircles.nl

Andrea Miller - <http://www.gallimdance.com/andrea-miller>

Vincent Nebrada - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vincente_Nebrada

William Whitener - <http://www.kcballet.org/aboutus/company/artisticdirector>

Tito Puente

Tito Puente - King of Latin Music (Book) by Jim Payne and Tito Puente (2006)

Tito Puente: When The Drums Are Dreaming by Josephine Powell (2007)

Books for Young Readers

4-8 Years Old

Alvin Ailey Andrea Pinkney (Author), Brian Pinkney (Illustrator)

Brazil (A to Z) Justine Fontes; Ron Fontes

Carnaval, George Ancona

Celebrate Cinco de Mayo with the Mexican Hat Dance (Stories to Celebrate)

Alma F. Ada & F. Isabel Campoy

Dance! With Bill T. Jones; Susan Kuklin

Dancing in the Wings; Debbie Allen (Author), Kadir Nelson (Illustrator)

A Dictionary of Dance; Liz Murphy

José! Born to Dance: The Story of José Limón; Susanna Reich and

Raul Colon (Illustrator)

Kitchen Dance; Maurie J. Manning

Mexico ABCs: A Book About the People and Places of Mexico (Country Abcs)

Heiman (Author), Sarah (Author), Ouren (Illustrator), Todd (Illustrator)

Mis Bailes/My Dances (We Are Latinos); George Ancona; Children's Press

My Friend Maya Loves to Dance; Cheryl Willis Hudson

9-12 Years Old

Brazil (True Books); Tara Walters

Capoeira: Game! Dance! Martial Art!; George Ancona

Dance (DK Eyewitness Books); Andre Grau (Author)

Festivals of the World: Brazil; McKay, Susan

The History of Latin Music; Dorothy Hoobler

Mexico (True Books); Elaine Landau

Mexico: 40 Activities to Experience Mexico Past & Present; Kaleidoscope Kids

Modern Dance (High Interest Books); Cheryl Tobey

Latin and Ballroom (Dance) Susie Hodge; *young adult*

Watch Me Dance: Family Celebration Board Books; Andrea Davis Pinkney; *pre-school*

Film

Mad Hot Ballroom, Documentary about New York City students learning ballroom dance



Ballet Hispanico

Education & Outreach

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Page 2: Mario Ismael Espinoza in Tres Cantos © Eduardo Patino, NYC

Page 3: Company in Tres Cantos © Eduardo Patino, NYC

Page 4: Education & Outreach © Rachel Watts

Ballet Hispanico explores, preserves, and celebrates Latino cultures through dance. The mission unfolds in the work of the professional Company, the School of Dance, and the Education & Outreach programs. Together, these divisions celebrate the dynamic aesthetics of the Hispanic diaspora, building new avenues of cultural dialogue and sharing the joy of dance with all communities.

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