

# ¡VIVA PUEBLA!

## FIESTA DE CINCO DE MAYO

### ABOUT THE SHOW

Discover the deeper meaning behind the Mexican holiday of Cinco de Mayo, and the inspiring story of a people's resilience, courage and pride. Often mistaken for Mexico's Independence Day, Calpulli commemorates the Battle of Puebla, when on May 5th (cinco de mayo) in 1862, against all odds, a small Mexican force triumphed over the world's most powerful army. Join us as we honor the spirit of Puebla through lively movement, music and radiant garments. Audiences of all ages will be immersed in the traditions of Puebla, both past and present, and pay homage to the bravery of its people which forever changed the course of history in the Americas.



### ABOUT CALPULLI MEXICAN DANCE COMPANY

Founded in 2003, Calpulli Mexican Dance Company celebrates and explores Mexican and Mexican-American culture via dance including live music. Based in New York City, Calpulli produces professional performances via its international touring company, designs arts-in-education programming, and leads free community outreach activities.

The word calpulli (pronounced cawl-pool-lee) is an Aztec word that means "big house," "clan," and "family." We are a calpulli of dancers, musicians, and teachers that, as a non-profit organization, contributes to the city, country, and community we love.

Learn more at [www.calpullidance.org](http://www.calpullidance.org)

### ABOUT MEXICO

- ✓ Capital: Mexico City
- ✓ Official Language: Spanish
- ✓ Other Languages: 68 Indigenous languages
- ✓ Two coastlines: Pacific and Atlantic



### PUEBLA & CINCO DE MAYO

The city of Puebla is the fourth largest city in Mexico with 1.7 million inhabitants (2020). It is the capital of the State of Puebla. The city's main claim to fame, however, is Cinco de Mayo.

**Cinco de Mayo** (Fifth of May) also called the Anniversary of the Battle of Puebla, is a holiday celebrated in parts of Mexico and the United States. In 1861 English, Spanish and French troops invaded Mexico to demand repayment of foreign debts. By April 1862 the English and Spanish had withdrawn, but the French remained in an attempt from Napoleon III to establish a French monarchy in Mexico. On May 5, 1862 a poorly equipped mestizo and Zapotec force defeated French troops at the Battle of Puebla. Although the fighting continued and the French were not driven out for another five years, the victory at Puebla became a symbol of Mexican and North American resistance to European domination.

# DANCES & REFLECTION

## Danza de Negritos


There are several variations of this dance. Legend has it that the son of a sugar cane farmer was bit by a snake while working in the fields. In order to save the boy's life, a group of African field laborers nearby proceeded to enact a ritual, a traditional dance brought from their African culture to help the boy. Local indigenous people, Totonacas, witnessed the events and, bewildered, started to imitate the movements they observed, which in turn became this dance.



## Danza de los Quetzales

Original to the municipality of Cuetzalan, which in Nahuatl it means "place with the most beautiful feathers." It is a spectacular, eye-catching dance as the garments worn include a very large semi-circular headdress covered originally in colored feathers. The dancers evoke the flight of the mighty quetzal bird with their movement.



 How would you use your body to create movement to represent a bird?

## Huasteca Poblana

Son huasteco is a Mexican song style comprised of three musical instruments (jarana, bass guitar, and violin) and singers with bright falsettos. The music originates from a six-state area of northeastern Mexico called La Huasteca and dates back to the 19th century with influences from Spain and Native American cultures. The state of Puebla has a small section of the Huasteca area and a big contribution with the festive dances and percussive footwork.



## QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- 1 What is most memorable to you about the show and why?
- 2 Was the program different from what you expected? How?
- 3 Think about the rhythms and music that you enjoyed during the show. How are they similar or different to the music you are familiar with? How does it compare to the music you listen to with your family and friends?
- 4 Cinco de Mayo is acknowledged as a day of resistance and hope, when people came together for a common goal. Is there a day or time in your life when you used teamwork to overcome something difficult either at school or home? How did you overcome this?



## ART ACTIVITY

Talavera tile is a traditional Mexican ceramic art form highly acclaimed for its quality and beauty. Research Talavera tile designs and create your own Talavera tile with colored pencils or markers.



example

Questions? Feedback?  
Contact [info@calpullidance.org](mailto:info@calpullidance.org)