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and

Chief Tonaltzin

Aztec and Mexican dances, rhythms and songs

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Mario Dominguez Virginia Alvarado
Salvador Hernandez

and

Mario Salguero
and his Marimbas

Aurelio Ochoa
Mexican Songs

Raul Leon
Salterio Player

Aracelia Chavira Jose Calderon Maritza Caloca

and

The Mariachi Mexicano de Jalisco
de Jose Velasco

Musical Director:
Zacarias Segura

Choreography by
Javier de Leon

Aztec and Mayan Costumes by
Rafael Segura and Estrada A.

National Costumes by
Froylan Tenes

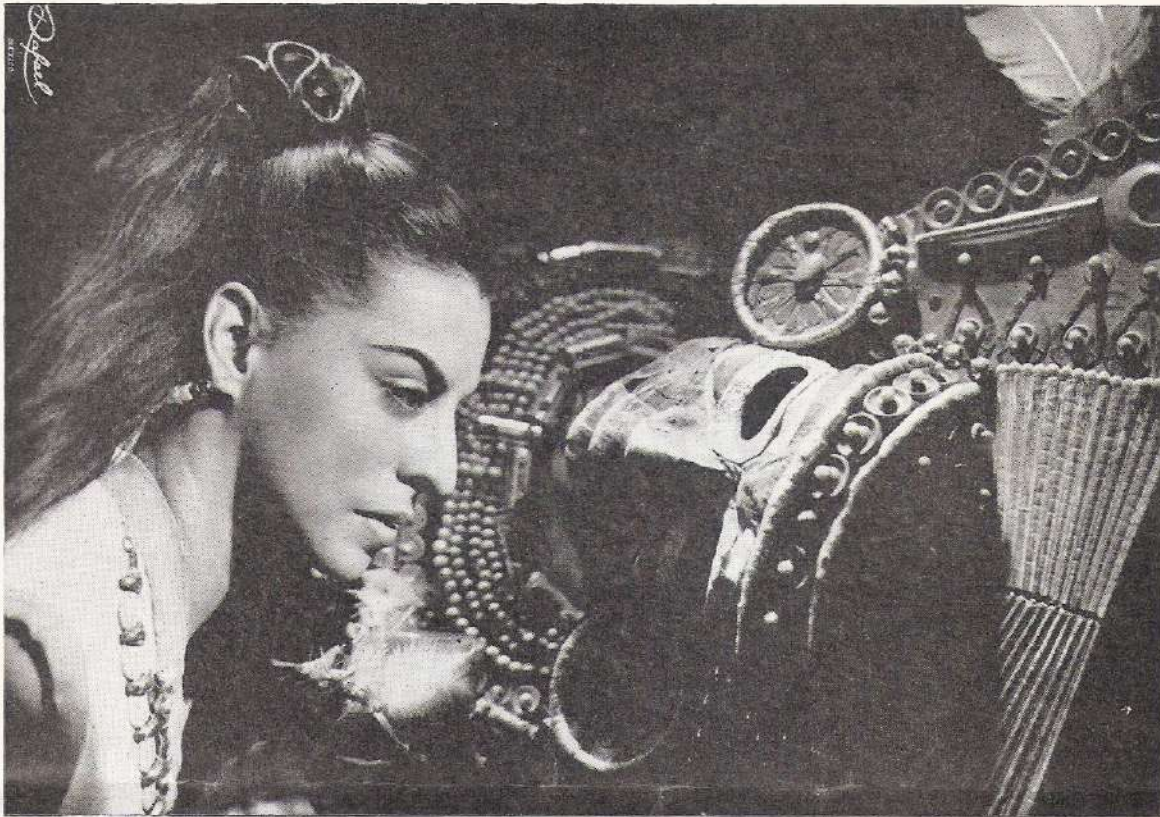
Costumes for Princess Teo Xochitl by
Estrada A.

Lighting by John Wyckham

First Performance: Monday, 18th July, 1960

FOR FOUR WEEKS ONLY

PROGRAMME - ONE SHILLING



Princess **TEO XOCHITL**

A Mexican Fiesta

The exotic Mexican company of dancers stars the beautiful Princess Teo Xochitl, famous in her country as their most popular dancer and descended from Royal Aztec blood. The company directed by Javier de Leon—a well known Mexican choreographer—includes in its repertoire some mystical Mayan dance numbers with the High Priest officiating at the dance of the Plumed Serpents; Aztec War dances before their God Teztlipoca; the Sacrifice of the Aztec Princess and the finale to the first half of the sacred bird dances.

The second half of the programme includes some modern dances with a Michoacan Ballet, Fiesta dances from Jalisco and other colourful numbers, with many beautiful national costumes. The music ranges from Aztec rhythms and Guiliguis songs to Marimba dances and the Mexican Mariachi from Jalisco.

THE AZTECS

... formed a school called "The House of Song and Dance" which was a sort of preparatory school for dancers and musicians before they became professional assistants to priests officiating at public rituals and celebrations. Custom decreed that the young men from all classes at the "House of Song" should light a fire each evening at sunset in order to dance round it until midnight. Behind the great altar (Teocalli), certain priests consecrated themselves to the study of musical instruments, while in another school, selected priests went through training in the art of song and religious and ritual music.

Lay songs and dances were also performed before the Kings. Troubadours improvised songs dedicated to the glory and conquests of their sovereigns, and these were mimed and danced by companies of great talent in ceremonial dress.

THE MAYAS

were well versed in lyrical and dramatic poetry which was mixed with the songs and dances of their religion. Their dramatic performances and ballets were much appreciated by their public. Several "Mayan" pyramids reveal that the open air theatres served to give performances of plays and dances and these ruins show that they were not always of religious inspiration.

The interiors of some houses in the Mayas country were often decorated with rich textiles and with low rostrum for song and dance.

The ruins of Chichen-Itza, Monte Alban and Bonampak bear witness to the importance of dance in the culture of the ancient Mexicans. The Paintings and sculptures of pre-Spanish civilisations show that dancing (religious, ritual and traditional as well as the spontaneous expression of the people) penetrated every phase of life and also reflected the temperament and artistic life of these ancient Mexicans.

CUADRO
TEHUANO



Programme

PART ONE

I. MAYAN DANCES:

(a) **Offering to the God**

Rite and Ceremony were essential parts of the lives of these people. In fact, the Mayans found music and dancing so important that they maintained special schools to train singers and dancers whom they sent to the Court of Montezuma.

Montezuma King: **JAVIER de LEON**

(b) **Dance of the Kukulkan**

The Aztecs and Mayans had many Gods, but they had one God in common—the Kukulkan. In this dance the High Priest is dressed as the God in his form of the Plumed Serpent.

The High Priest: **Chief Tonalzin**

(c) **Dance to the Xtol**

The Mayans here are entreating their mighty chieftan Xtol in their oldest ritual dance.

The Company

(d) **Dance to the God of Music**

Princess **TEO XOCHITL**
Salvador Hernandez and Mario Dominguez

(e) **Dance of the Priestesses**

The music and dancing of these ancient people was very closely associated with their religion, and some of the ritual was conducted by the women. This is a dance of the Priestesses.

The Priestesses: **Virginia Alvarado, Aracelia Chavira, Anita Saenz, Maritza Caloca**

2. BALLET OF YUMIL KAX

This is the legend of Yumil Kax, an enchantress of the gods. The Maya warriors with their Chieftan Prince Dzul Kokom, come to the woods to hunt deer. The warriors succumb to the witch's magic powers. The Prince fights her and is able to destroy her power through acquiring her magic pendant.

The Hunters: **Mario Dominguez and Salvador Hernandez**

Yumil Kax: **Princess TEO XOCHITL**

The Deer: **Aurelio Ochoa**

The Prince: **JAVIER de LEON**

3. AZTEC SONGS

Ritual Aztec Songs performed by the **GUILIGUIS** group of singers.

4. DANCE TO THE SUN GOD TONATIUM

The Aztec and Mayans were very different in character. The Aztecs were a warrior race and the Mayans were more interested in artistic matters.

The Company

5. THE SACRIFICE OF THE PRINCESS

This was the most important Aztec ritual. The high-born warriors escort the reluctant Princess to the sacrificial altar. The High Priest arrives and tries to calm her, telling her of the high honour she is to receive in being sacrificed to the Great God Huitzilopochtli.

Princess **TEO XOCHITL** and **JAVIER de LEON** and Company

6. DANCE TO THE GOD OF FIRE

It was a daily ritual for the Aztecs to pray to the God of Night. As twilight falls the God appears and the fires are lit.

Fire Dancer: **Chief Tonalzin**

Tonalzin Singer: **Irene Segura**

7. DANCE OF THE QUETZALS

The dancers with their great multi-coloured head-feathers dance in honour of the sacred peacock bird.

Mario Dominguez, Salvador Hernandez, Aurelio Ochoa, Jose Calderon and the Company

INTERVAL

I. TEHUANA WE

Dances f

(a) **The Wedding**
The Bride
to break

(b) **Songs by Auri**

(c) **The Wedding**
Los Novios

2. SALTERIO MEX

A Mexica

3. BALLET MICH

One of t
dance an

(a) **Iguiris: Virgin**

Abuelitos (C

(b) **Jarabe Michoa**

4. POPULAR MEX

Regional

(a) **Chiapanecas: J**

(b) **Veracruz: Virg**

5. MARIMBA CHI

Mario Salgu

6. FIESTA JALISCO

Jalisco is
famous T
of Jalisco.
from) and

Sones la Neg
La Valentín
La Cucaracha
The Snake

7. SOLO DE MARI

Jose Velasco,

8. SONGS OF ME

Aurelio Och

9. JARABE LARGO

Princess TEC

rogramme

PART TWO

1. TEHUANA WEDDING DANCE

Dances from the Oaxaga and Tehuantepec regions of Mexico.

- (a) **The Wedding Ceremony**
The Bride and Groom accompanied with Mixteco songs. During the ceremony it is the custom to break a mud jar and to gather the pieces indicating a long, happy life for the couple.
- (b) **Songs by Aurelio Ochoa**
- (c) **The Wedding Celebrations and Festival, with music from Tehuantepec.**
Los Novios: Maritza Caloca, Salvador Hernandez and Company

2. SALTERIO MEXICANO—Raul Leon

A Mexican song played on the Salterio with Huasteco music.

3. BALLET MICHOACAN

One of the most typical and popular of Mexican dances. In this the young girls of the villages dance and guy the old men.

- (a) **Iguiris: Virginia Alvarado, Aracelia Chavira, Anita Saenz, Maritza Caloca**
Abuelitos (Old Men): Martiza Caloca and Anita Saenz
- (b) **Jarabe Michoacano: Princess TEO XOCHITL**
Salvador Hernandez and Mario Dominguez,
Jose Calderon, Maritza Caloca,
Virginia Alvarado

4. POPULAR MEXICAN DANCES

Regional festival dances.

- (a) **Chiapanecas: Aracelia Chavira, Anita Saenz, Mario Dominguez, Jose Calderon**
- (b) **Veracruz: Virginia Alvarado and Salvador Hernandez**

5. MARIMBA CHIAPANECA

Mario Salguero and Tomas Garcia

6. FIESTA JALISCO

Jalisco is perhaps the best known area of Mexico because of the Mariachis, the Tequila and the famous Tapatío jarabe (or hat dance). This group of dancers typifies the joy so characteristic of Jalisco. The dances are from villages as distant as the Sierra (where the snake dance comes from) and the Little Horse Dance in which the men act the horses and are ridden by the women.

Sones la Negra:
La Valentina: Anita Saenz, Aurelio Ochoa, Jose Calderon
La Cucaracha: Aracelia Chavira, Salvador Hernandez
The Snake and Horse Dance: The Company

7. SOLO DE MARIACHIS

Jose Velasco, Pedro Gomez and the Santiago Brothers

8. SONGS OF MEXICO

Aurelio Ochoa

9. JARABE LARGO

Princess TEO XOCHITL and JAVIER de LEON with full Company

The glory and grandeur of an ancient culture

In order to reproduce faithfully the ancient dances of the Mayans and Aztecs whose culture dominated the Mexican Peninsula in Pre-Hispanic times, it has been necessary to find a choreographer with the creative imagination capable of translating the frozen movements of sculpture and painting into the fluid movements of the dance, and for this person to develop and train a corps of dancers with the ability to perform these movements.

Javier de Leon is this person. A young native of Mexico with a great love for his pre-Hispanic past and a passion to re-create in the present the glory and grandeur of the ancient culture of the Aztecs and Mayans, has made an intensive study, not only of the pre-Columbian sources of the dance, but also of such folk dances as persist today, which appear to embody the race memory of that ancient glory. His programme of dances is not only superb entertainment, but also affords a glimpse of the thought, imagery and dramatic feeling of peoples long since passed into history.

Photographs in this programme by RAFAEL, Mexico Stockings by KAYSER-BONDOR

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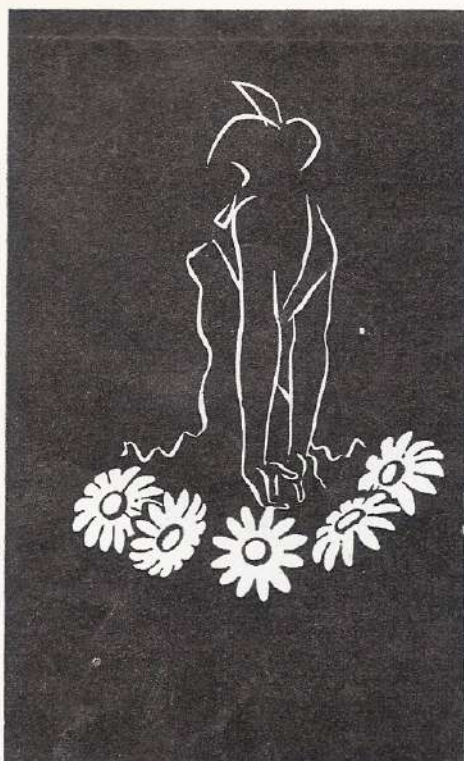
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