

DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS

We wish to invite you to our colorful extravaganza! Join us for a virtual afternoon of dance and a true Mexican Celebration! El Día de los Muertos is an original ballet that tells of Mexico's celebration of the Day of the Dead. Our heartwarming tale is set in our beautiful home in Mexico and takes you through the story of us, Juanita and Rosita!

Saludos Cordiales,
Rosita y Juanita



Where did Dia De Los Muertos originate?

It originated in Mexico and Central America.

Día de los Muertos originated in ancient Mesoamerica (Mexico and northern Central America) where indigenous groups, including Aztec, Mayan and Toltec, had specific times when they commemorated their loved ones who had passed away. Certain months were dedicated to remembering the departed, based on whether the deceased was an adult or a child. After the arrival of the Spanish, this ritual of commemorating the dead was intertwined with two Spanish holidays: All Saints Day (Nov. 1) and All Soul's Day (Nov. 2). Día de los Muertos is often celebrated on Nov. 1 as a day to remember children who have passed away, and on Nov. 2 to honor adults.

What is an ofrenda?

The *ofrenda* is often the most recognized symbol of Día de los Muertos. This temporary altar is a way for families to honor their loved ones and provide them with what they need on their journey. They place pictures of the deceased on the altar, along with items that belonged to them and objects that serve as a reminder of their lives.

Every *ofrenda* also includes the four elements: water, wind, earth and fire. Water is left in a pitcher so the spirits can quench their thirst. Papel picado, or traditional paper banners, represent the wind. Earth is represented by food, especially bread. Candles are often left in the form of a cross to represent the cardinal directions, so the spirits can find their way.

Flowers, butterflies and skulls are typically used as symbols

- The *cepasúchil*, a type of marigold flower native to Mexico, is often placed on *ofrendas* and around graves. With their strong scent and vibrant color, the petals are used to make a path that leads the spirits from the cemetery to their families' homes
- Monarch butterflies play a role in Día de los Muertos because they are believed to hold the spirits of the departed. This belief stems from the fact that the first monarchs arrive in Mexico for the winter each fall on Nov. 1, which coincides with Día de los Muertos.
- *Calaveritas de azúcar*, or sugar skulls, along with toys, are left on the altars for children who have passed. The skull is used not as a morbid symbol, but rather as a whimsical reminder of the cyclical nature of life, which is why they are brightly decorated

DANCE THEATER OF FLORIDA

Dance Theater of Florida is a non-profit concert dance performance company comprised of elite and extremely dedicated dancers. These dancers train at Florida School for Dance Education in Palm Beach Gardens, where they attend ballet, contemporary, jazz and several other dance forms everyday from 4:30 - 8:30PM. They rehearse for a full season of performances EVERY Friday evening & all day Saturday. After highschool they go on to dance in professional dance companies all over the world and attend top colleges in the arts and academic honors.

They work hard. They love to dance. They love to share the arts with YOU!

About Rosita & Juanita

Dance Theater of Florida has created an original new ballet that celebrates this treasured Mexican tradition for their younger audience member to enjoy.

Their story follows the journey of two parted loving sisters as they both try to bridge the threshold between the two realms of life and the after life. The ballet begins with Rosita creating an ofrenda for her sister Juanita and her many other past relatives. She wants desperately to honor her sister and to show her that her love for her is eternal. She places marigolds and candles on the ofrenda for their vibrant color and their permeable scents in hopes that her sister will be drawn to follow the path to her.

Meanwhile, Juanita is struggling to get back to her home where she can feel the love of her sister. Along the way she encounters humorous dancing skeletons, magical gigantic marigolds, musical harmonies that carry her through along with intoxicating scents of delicious food prepared for her by her sister to lead her to her ofrenda where Rosita is waiting for her.

Rosita and Juanita are ultimately reunited by the spiritual guides that assist everyone's life's journey proving that love is stronger than the threshold that divides life and death.

This libretto is inspired by the children's book "Rosita and Conchita" by By Eric Gonzalez , Erich Haeger



DIA DE LOS MUERTOS



Making Connections

Book

<https://shop.scholastic.com/teachers-ecommerce/teacher/books/rosita-y-conchita-9781338355154.html>

Music

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NbgAHpD4W_8

Traditional Mexican Dance

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9dIUCZGLRNM>

Marigold Craft

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IpyfZDJy4r4>

