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What's HAPPENING

Guide to Local Arts, Entertainment & Events



Shumba plays
for the WOW
Hall's Spring
Fest

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FLOR DE SANCUANJOCHÉ

by Margo Schaefer

Twenty teen-aged dancers will share a lively and colorful portrait of traditional Nicaraguan folk dancing Sunday evening, May 3 at 6:30 in the UO EMU Ballroom. They are Flor de Sancuanjoche—Flower of Sancuanjoche, Nicaragua's national flower—and are returning to Eugene as the official cultural ambassadors of Managua.

The troupe draws the audience into the rich traditions of various regions and ethnic groups of Nicaragua. History and culture are expressed through folkloric, modern and popular dance forms, as well as drama, with live guitar and marimba accompaniment. Their delightful performances include over a dozen changes of authentic and period costumes, varying from simple white peasant dress to vivid outfits in rainbows of col-

ors, sewn by the performers themselves.

The highly acclaimed group was formed in August 1979 under the direction of Professor Rosalina Moreno Bermudez, a graduate of the Nicaraguan National School of Dance. Under her direction, members have studied folkloric dance and music, costume and set design and the history of various other dance forms. They have performed over 2,000 times throughout Nicaragua in primary and secondary schools, universities, neighborhoods, theatres, and at national cultural festivals. They have also performed for many special international delegations.

Flor's Oregon tour is an effort to build friendship and acquaint Oregonians with authentic Central American culture. Accompanying dignitaries include

Managua's Deputy Mayor Pedro Ortiz and International Relations Representative Maria Teresa Illescas who will meet with Oregon public officials to share information and promote better relations.

As a reciprocal gesture of friendship school supplies will be collected to send back to Nicaraguan schools with the dance troupe. These donations will help alleviate extreme shortages due to the contra war and embargo by the United States.

Despite many hardships in this poor country, Nicaragua's student population doubled between 1978 and 1984. Currently, one third of Nicaragua's three million people are students. The illiteracy rate has dropped from 53 to 13 percent since 1979, a feat unparalleled in the world.

Donations of unused pens, pencils, erasers, rulers, colored pencils and markers can be taken to the U. of O. Bookstore, outside Suite 4 of the EMU, The Latin American Cultural Center at 1236 Kincaid, or the Saturday Market (weekdays at 454 Willamette or Saturdays at 8th and Oak). Donations of specialized supplies can be arranged through the Council by calling 484-5867.

Flor de Sancuanjoche's dance performance is sponsored by the Latin American Support Committee, and various community businesses. Advance tickets are \$4.50, \$3 for students, seniors and children, and are available at the EMU Main Desk, Everybody's Records, and the Council for Human Rights in Latin America. Ticket prices increase \$1 at the door.