

Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance stages first ever Tri-Lingual Musical, “500 Years”

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There comes a time, when the answer to “why you were put on this earth” becomes clear. For Mari-a', that time came when she was a little girl - 500 years ago.

That premise initiates the first-ever tri-lingual musical *500 Years*, to be performed by Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance in English, Spanish, and Taino - an

original Indian language spoken in the Caribbean in what is now Puerto Rico, Cuba, the Dominican Republic and the Bahama. Created by Director Ana Maria Tekina-eiru' Maynard - in collaboration with Rupert Reyes, the director of Teatro Vivo - the production plays December 5th at 3 pm., in Davis Auditorium at the Texas School For the Deaf.

The *Sembrando Herencia* 2010 story combines magic, music and inspiration to stage rarely-told stories that reveal a cultural awakening. Featuring live traditional music, *500 Years* showcases fifty dancers, musicians, and performing arts students to pass on “a cultural heritage to a new generation,” Maynard said.

Since 1997, the Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance has produced artistic programming - including the large annual stage production, *Celebrando*, with Puerto Rican folklore masters - and maintains both a professional performing company and a junior company, who perform full-length productions in all of Puerto Rico's traditional styles of live music and dance.

The organization also offers more than a dozen ongoing, weekly programs in dance, music ensemble, instruments and song, percussion, choir, performance training, history, and cultural workshops - from sports to crafts.

Tickets for *500 Years* are \$10 for adults in advance and \$12 at the door. Tickets for children are \$10, with children two years old and younger admitted free. Davis Auditorium is located at 1102 South Congress at the Texas School for the Deaf. For reservations and more information, call (512) 251-8122 or visit www.PRFDance.org.

(Photo courtesy PRFDance)