Press Contact: Mary Muñoz
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS-PAN AMERICAN
Dept. of Music and Dance: (956) 665-2230
Photos available upon request or a link to photos

TO BE RELEASED January 1, 2014

Ballet Folklórico UT Pan American presents _Alegría Gira_ 2014

EDINBURG, Texas. December 4, 2013 –The *Ballet Folklórico* UT Pan American is thrilled to announce its brand new dance performance *Alegría Gira 2014*. The dance company will start its tour on Feb. 5 with six shows throughout the Rio Grande Valley and South Texas.

Alegría Gira 2014 will explore classical and authentic pieces to take the audience on a colorful and exotic journey during the time of an awe-inspiring performance. It will be a mixed repertory program of restaged works and premieres featuring 35 dancers in an energetic and inspiring performance that brings the stage to life with the color, drama, and excitement of Mexico's folklórico dance art.

The *Ballet Folklórico's* 44th season will start with an opening night Gala on Feb. 5 at 6:00 p.m. at the Casa de Palmas Renaissance/McAllen Civic Auditorium. A dinner will precede a preview showing of *Alegría Gira 2014.* Tickets for the events are $75 per person. All attendees are requested to R.S.V.P. by Jan. 22 at (956) 665-2230.

Public concerts will continue at the McAllen Civic Auditorium on Feb. 6 and at the Harlingen Municipal Auditorium on Feb. 8. The *Ballet Folklórico* will present *Alegría Gira 2014* on Feb. 15 to the Brownsville community at the Brownsville TSC Performing Arts Center. The tour will continue on Feb. 22 at the Weslaco Performing Arts Center. The *Ballet* will close its 2014 tour with its last show in Laredo, Texas on Feb. 28 at the Laredo ISD Performing Arts Center, which will be hosting the *Alegría* performance for the first time.

Tickets for the McAllen Civic Auditorium will be available at the Convention Center Box Office located at 700 Convention Center Blvd. (Ware Rd. & Exp. 83) or by calling (956) 681-3800 or via www.ticketmaster.com (800-745-3000).

Tickets for the Harlingen Municipal Auditorium will be available at its box office at 1204 Fair Park Blvd., Harlingen, Texas or by calling (956) 216-5990 or visiting www.harlingenarts.com

Tickets for the Brownsville Performing Arts Center, the Weslaco Performing Arts Center and the Laredo ISD Performing Arts Center will be available for purchase at the door one hour before the show.

All shows will begin at 7:30 p.m. Ticket prices range from $12-$14 for adults, $10-$12 for seniors, and $8-$10 for children.

On Feb. 6, the McAllen Civic Auditorium will host *Ballet Folklórico* UT Pan American for a matinee show starting at 10 a.m. It will be entirely dedicated to audiences of public and private schools' students and teachers. The Weslaco Performing Arts Center will offer the same opportunity to its area's schools on Feb. 21 at 1 p.m. Tickets are $3 per student/teacher. Teachers interested in attending may call the Dance Office at (956) 665-2230 to request a reservation form.

The *Ballet Folklórico* UT-Pan American is under the direction of Francisco Munoz, artistic director, and Maria Oralia Munoz, administrative director. Members of the 2013-2014 *Ballet Folklórico* are Mariana Adame, Joel Arcíbar, Keyla Siboney Cadena, Anthony Carrillo, Alejandro Ivan Casillas, Magín Betsaida Cervantes, Annalysa Cruz, Elizette Davila, Fancy De Leon, Ricardo Flores, Zeidy Enedy Garza, Mirian Yaneth Gomez, Maria Elena González, Angel Hernández, Arlette Hernández, Rossely Kowalski, Aracely Longoria, Daniela Martinez, Mónica Martínez, Calvin Roy Mata, LeeRoy Mora, Javier Horacio Morales, Hanss Mujica, Perla Olivo, Isaac Frank Pena, Jessica Peña, Miguel Angel Peña, Carlos Andres Peña, Ana Pinedo, Guillermo Rivas Jr., Carmen Isabel Sanchez, Abril Silva Galván, Sorayda Guadalupe Solis, Max Ivan Tijerina, and Monica Vargas.

For more information about the *Ballet Folklórico,* contact the Dance Office at (956) 665-2230 or visit www.utpa.edu/balletfolklorico.

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