

Asociación Buena, Mexicana  
Little theatre in Padua Hills  
Claremont, Ca.



NOCHE BUENA MEXICANA  
(HOLY NIGHT IN MEXICO)

Presented at

THE LITTLE THEATRE IN PADUA HILLS

BY ITS MEXICAN PLAYERS

Saturday December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 2:30 and 8:30  
and each Saturday following until January 20<sup>th</sup>

## THE STORY

Traditional medieval mystery plays such as used to be done everywhere in Mexico and California at the Christmas season still persist in the more remote country sections in Mexico. Modified only by local traditions they remain very much the same today as when introduced at the time of the Conquest.

In the first act of our "Holy Night in Mexico" we are presenting such a play, an adaptation of a Pastorela o Coloquio (Shepherds' play) printed by Frances Toor in "Mexican Folkways" Number One for 1932. These plays usually begin with Adam and Eve, but we are opening ours with the shepherds and shepherdesses singing in the woods. Bras the braggard shepherd, and Bato, the glutton, are tempted by Lucifer to rob their companions. The group, ignorant of danger, has supper and goes to sleep. The devil again appears to the two wicked ones. The Archangel Michael comes to the rescue, argues with Lucifer, challenges him to combat, and finally overcomes him. Comedy apparently is furnished by a hermit, a character pure Mexican in origin. At the end of the act the shepherds awake and hasten to Bethlehem, led by a group of Indian girls, to carry their gifts to the "New Little King of Glory".

The second act continues the story of the Christmas Eve festival and is laid also in the courtyard of the church, where the nacimiento has been set up. As the climax of nine days of Posadas (songs of those seeking shelter) Mary, Joseph, and the angel appear outside the gate singing their plea for shelter. The group within at first refuses, but finally invites them to enter. Following the singing of the Rosario the Christmas fiesta continues until midnight with music and dancing and the breaking of the piñatas (decorated dolls filled with goodies). At midnight the crowd gathers before the nacimiento and sings a lullaby to the baby as the godmother dresses him in his little clothes. The scene ends as they each kiss the baby, and go out singing their farewell to Him.

Bras  
Bato  
Silvio  
Bartolo (The old one)  
Gila  
Ardeña  
Florinda  
The Hermit  
Satan (Luzbel)  
Archangel Miguel  
Indian Girls

Don Cheno  
Doña Lupe

Don Pedro  
Doña Maria  
Appointed to be  
Mary  
Joseph  
The Angel

NOCHE BUENA MEXICANA  
(Holy Night in Mexico)

Act I.

Pastorela o Coloquio

Bras . . . . .	Juan Matute
Bato . . . . .	Antonio Gonzalez
Silvio . . . . .	Eulogio Garcia
Bartolo (The old one) . . . . .	Jesus Huerta
Gila . . . . .	Manuela Huerta
Ardelia . . . . .	Casilda Amador
Florinda . . . . .	Margarita Park
The Hermit . . . . .	Enrique Carrillo
Satan (Luzbel) . . . . .	Eduardo Montano
Archangel Miguel . . . . .	Miguel Vera
Indian Girls . . . . .	{ Eva Rodriguez Hilda Ramirez

Act II.

Don Chema . . . . .	Juan Matute
Doña Lupe . . . . .	Manuela Huerta
Who give the fiesta.	
Don Pedro . . . . .	Eulogio Garcia
Doña Maria . . . . .	Hilda Ramirez
Appointed to be the godparents (padrino and madrina) to the baby.	
Mary . . . . .	Casilda Amador
Joseph . . . . .	Enrique Carrillo
The Angel . . . . .	Miguel Vera

Villagers

Produced by Bess A. Garner.

The celebration of Holy Night in the little town in Guanajuato where Flavio and Miguel Vera grew up has included, for at least two hundred years, a Christmas miracle play. Flavio has directed such a play for us this year. Miguel has remembered the songs. With the help of Eva Rodriguez, (born a few towns away) he has also built the Nacimiento.

We are always proud when people say of our productions "I did not feel as if I were watching a play. I was just living there with them." Here we hope you will not only live with them but with them act the old roles in the medieval manner. The lines costumes and characterizations are absolutely traditional. On the other hand the gay fiesta which follows the miracle play is quite *improvisé* and has no set lines.

We are indebted to Miss Flora Louise Salmons of Long Beach and to Dr. Mary Effie Shambaugh of the University of California at Los Angeles for help with the dancing, and to Kenneth Bartlett of Claremont for help with the music.

Every Saturday at 2:30 and 8:30 until January 20.

Admission 50¢, 75¢ and \$1.00

Special group rates.

For information and reservations address

The Little Theatre in Padua Hills

Claremont California

Phone 6061

Cabin —

Raphael Moruzis

about  
1890







