

MEZQUITA

A TALE OF 1001 FLAMENCO NIGHTS DIRECT FROM SPAIN AND FRANCE!

Presented by: Peña Bulería Flamenco Club (www.flamenco.ca)
Date: March 6, 2009 @ 8:30pm
Venue: Kay Meek Centre (1700 Mathers Ave., West Vancouver, BC, Canada)
Box Office: 604.913.3634 or Online @ www.kaymeekcentre.com/on_stage/610
Tickets: \$39 (Seniors/Students) - \$43 (Adults)
More Info: On the Web: www.flamenco.ca - Email: info@flamenco.ca
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From the people who brought you the popular flamenco production "El Sonido del Silencio" this past September, "Mezquita" promises to set the stage on fire with dazzling footwork, intricate guitar playing, and the haunting voices which have been resonating through the passages of time, evoking the desperation of a people for centuries. This event features world-class guest artists direct from Spain and France! Workshops in Dance, Singing, and Guitar will also be offered.

This event will be showcased on March 6, 2009 at the Kay Meek Centre in West Vancouver @ 8:30 pm featuring artists from Spain, France, Iran, and Canada. Box Office: www.kaymeekcentre.com or 604.913.3634. More information: www.flamenco.ca

"Mezquita" (originally the "Aljama Mosque"), was built by the Moors in Cordoba, Spain over 1200 years ago. This event promises an explosive program of authentic flamenco music, song and dance demonstrating the direct influences of Persian and Arabic cultures on the art form.

Featured artists: Pirouz de Caspio (Artistic Director/Singer), Manuel Gutierrez (Dancer), Cristo Cortes(Singer), Jose Vega (Guitarist), Kasandra La China (Dancer), Ali Golbabai (Guitarist).

Singer/Producer Pirouz de Caspio, who has shared the stage with many world renowned flamenco artists including Concha Vargas (Dancer), Paco Fernandez (Guitarist), Cristina Hall (Dancer), Cristo Cortes (Singer) and Manuel Gutierrez (Dancer) in North America over the past 6 years, is the founder of Peña Bulería and a well recognized singer in the flamenco communities of Canada and United States. His most notable accomplishment and contribution to the world of flamenco is creating and maintaining the most popular and comprehensive online flamenco radio station "Flamenco Beat" since 2004. As the founder of Peña Bulería, established in 2003, he has been responsible for bringing quality flamenco programming to the Lower Mainland for the past 6 years. He has studied singing with Cristo Cortes, Rafael de Utrera, and David Lagos to name a few, and is influenced by the style of Camaron de la Isla.

Manuel Gutierrez, only 25 years old, is already one of the most famous flamenco dancers in the world and regularly shares the stage with the heavy weights of flamenco including Duquende (Cantaor) and guitarists Juan Carmona and Chicuelo. He has also shared the stage with Vicente Amigo (Guitarist). He regularly performs on the most prestigious stage of Europe and has a very unique style that is identified as strong, precise, and soulful. Peña Bulería featured him in two of its productions in Vancouver and White Rock in 2003 and 2004.

Cristo Cortes has gracefully earned the status of being France's finest flamenco singer and is booked

months in advance. He has toured all of Europe with some of the best of this genre including Juana Amaya (Dancer), Maria del Mar Martinez (Dancer), and Paco Fernandez (Guitarist). He has also toured the US and Mexico with dancer Andres Marin, who has international status and is scheduled to perform in Vancouver later this year. Cristo Cortes has also performed in Vancouver several times and his last Peña Bulería performance in Vancouver was in 2005.

Guitarist Jose Vega, an accomplished and young guitarist from Cadiz, the birth place of legendary singer Camaron de la Isla, is a powerful expressionist who regularly performs in the most prestigious Peñas in Spain including " Peña la Perla de Cadiz" and " Peña Camaron de la Isla". With his superb technique and sense of timing, he has played in the most prestigious venues throughout Europe and Canada and has accompanied many famous dancers and singers. He was invited to perform in Peña Bulería's "Kon Sonikete" production in Vancouver in the summer of 2008.

Dancer Kasandra la China will also join the stage for this incredible performance. She is one of the most accomplished and talented female dancers in Canada who has co-founded "Al Mozaico Flamenco Dance Academy" along with Oscar Nieto and together, they have turned this school into one of Western Canada's most reputable, successful and friendliest dance academies. To stay on the cutting edge of Flamenco, Kasandra has made seven trips to Spain in the past nine years for intensive study in Madrid, Seville and Jerez de la Frontera. She has studied with Matilde Coral, Immaculada Aguilar, Victoria Eugenia, Merche Esmeralda, Manolete, and Javier Baron among others.

Guitarist Ali Golbabai who is perhaps one of the most gifted flamenco guitarists in Canada, will be sharing the stage with Jose Vega and the rest of the troupe and has performed in many of Peña Bulería's productions in BC, Alberta, and Saskatoon. His superb sensitivity and ability to spontaneously adapt and accompany highly skilled singers and dancers on an improvisational and random basis, has truly earned him the title "El Natural". He is also one of the founding members of Peña Bulería and is Pirouz de Caspio's nephew.

Emad Armoush developed a passion for learning the art of Flamenco music some 12 years ago, after listening to a record brought by his friend from Spain. He started by learning Flamenco guitar and rhythm, but his love for music expanded his endeavors to learning the singing style and other instruments from around the Mediterranean, such as: the Flamenco rhythm box "Cajon", Middle Eastern drums such as "Dumbak" and "Daf", and the reed flute "Nay".

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