

TALKING POINTS FOR CLASSROOM DISCUSSION: *POSADA NAVIDEÑA*

Show & Theater Company:

- *Posada Navideña* by *Calidanza Dance Company*

Art Form:

- Ballet Folklórico (cultural dance)

Context:

- Ballet Folklórico (or baile folklórico) is a style of cultural dance performance with origins in Mexico, Central America and the Southwestern United States. Different communities have their own unique traditions, and this performance includes elements from many different regions.
- One of the most recognizable parts of ballet folklórico is the costuming. Performers often wear brightly colored ruffled skirts or black pants with a red belt and tie.
- Posada Navideña is a traditional Latin American holiday celebration.

Main Concepts:

- Celebrating the holiday season
 - ? What holidays does your family celebrate? What makes your celebration special?
- Storytelling through dance
 - ? What's a story you hear every year?
 - ? What kinds of movements would you use to express the story?

Special Things to Look for:

- This show uses large puppets operated by performers who appear invisible because of their black costuming.
- ? Can you figure out how the performers move the puppets? How many performers does it take to operate each one?

Theater Etiquette:

- Respect the theater, one person to a seat, limit bathroom breaks, do not kick the seats, no food or drink in the theater (bottled water okay), and turn off cell phones/no texting.
- ? How is watching live theater different than watching a movie or TV?
 - We can't pause, rewind, or fast forward with live theater.
 - Live theater is exciting because each performance is unique.
 - Students are in the same room as the performers. Moving around and making sounds can affect the performers and other members of the audience.