



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **For Immediate Release**

**June 3, 2009**

### **FAMILY/DANCE/MUSIC EVENT LISTINGS OPENING EVENT – 4<sup>th</sup> OF JULY LISTINGS**

#### **Attention Editors/Writers:**

Big!World!Fun! listings in English: <http://www.fordamphitheater.org/en/events/Family.asp>

Big!World!Fun! listings in Spanish: <http://fordtheatres.org/es/events/Family.asp>

Photos available upon request

## **BIG!WORLD!FUN! FAMILY SERIES OPENS JULY 4 AT 10 A.M. WITH GRANDEZA MEXICANA FOLK BALLET**

Children admitted FREE to one-hour programs for families.

Arrive early for crafts and fun at 9:00 a.m.

The Ford Amphitheatre's 2009 Big!World!Fun! family series opens on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July at 10 a.m. with Grandeza Mexicana Folk Ballet in "**Tierra y Luna**" (**Earth and Moon**). This year's performances are inspired by the four elements – earth, air, fire, water, and Grandeza's program reflects the important role nature plays in Mexico's indigenous dances. Science-based crafts and fun begin at 9:00 a.m.

"Tierra y Luna" is the first of 8 Big!World!Fun! family events on Saturday mornings in July and August. These hour-long performances are designed for children ages 4 to 10 and their parents and grandparents.

Admission to all events is FREE for children and \$5 for adults, plus all Big!World!Fun! attendees receive coupons for discount admission to the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County. Parking is only \$1. To reserve/purchase tickets, call the Ford box office at **323 461-3673** or visit [www.FordTheatres.org](http://www.FordTheatres.org).

Grandeza Mexicana Folk Ballet, founded by Jose Vences in 2003, explores the origins and intricacies of Mother Earth in a vivid voyage through Mexican history and mythology. Highlights of “Tierra y Luna” include dances from the Olmec culture exploring the ancient creation myth of the sacred Jaguar, the Huichol *Tatei Neirra* (Dance of Our Mother Earth) honoring the first harvest of the season, the Deer Dance from Nayarit, as well as the bright costumes and mariachi from the state of Jalisco.

Big!World!Fun! continues with **On Ensemble** creating world fusion sounds on Japanese taiko drums (July 11); the invigorating mix of **Masanga Marimba’s** “Musical Raindrops: Songs Stories & Dances from Zimbabwe” (July 25); **J.U.i.C.E.** and the **Hip Hop Handbook’s** “A Hurricane of Hip Hop” (August 1); **DreamDance’s** journey into the Chinese landscape, “Dancing in the Rain” (August 8); the reverberating foot beats and high intensity of **Celtic Spring’s** “An Earthquake of Irish Dance” (August 15); **Helios Dance Theater’s** sea voyage, “The Lotus Eaters” (August 22); and **Hula Halau Ka Lehua Uluwehi I Ka Lani** demonstrating the graceful, expressive elements of hula in “Hawaiian Breezes” (August 29).

The Big!World!Fun! Family Series is sponsored by The Nissan Foundation, Sony Pictures Entertainment, Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky and The Kenneth T. and Eileen L. Norris Foundation and presented by the Ford Theatre Foundation.

The media sponsor of Big!World!Fun! is ABC7.

The **Ford Theatre Foundation**, a not-for-profit organization founded in 1994, supports the performing arts and education activities that are presented at the Ford Theatres. The Foundation’s Community Bridges program builds audiences by encouraging and facilitating participation in the theatres’ programs and brings Ford performers to youth and social service centers based in Asian Pacific Islander and Latino communities throughout Los Angeles County. In addition to presenting the Big!World!Fun! Family Series, the Foundation produces the free, interactive J.A.M. (Jazzed and Motivated) Sessions during the Ford’s summer season.

The **Los Angeles County Arts Commission**, Laura Zucker, Executive Director, provides leadership in cultural services of all disciplines for the largest county in the United States, encompassing 88 municipalities. In addition to programming the John Anson Ford Theatres, the Arts Commission provides leadership and staffing to support the regional blueprint for arts education, *Arts for All*; administers a \$4.5 million grants program that funds more than 300 nonprofit arts organizations annually; oversees the County’s Civic Art Program for capital projects; funds the largest arts internship program in the country in conjunction with the Getty Foundation; and supports the Los Angeles County Cultural Calendar on ExperienceLA.com. The Commission also produces free community programs, including the L.A. Holiday Celebration broadcast nationally. The 2009-10 President of the Arts Commission is Araceli Ruano.

For more information please consult the Arts Commission online press kit:  
[http://lacountyarts.org/communications/docs/lacac\\_onlinepresskit\\_0905.pdf](http://lacountyarts.org/communications/docs/lacac_onlinepresskit_0905.pdf)

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## **THE FACTS**

### **WHAT**

Big!World!Fun! Family Series, dance and music performances designed for children 4 to 10 and their parents. Science-based pre-show activities that echo the 2009 series theme, "The Four Elements - Earth, Air, Fire, Water."

### **WHEN**

Performances are Saturday mornings at 10 a.m.

Pre-show activities begin at 9:00 a.m. Families are advised to arrive early. Space is limited.

### **WHERE**

Ford Amphitheatre

2580 Cahuenga Blvd. East, Hollywood, CA 90068

Just off the 101 (Hollywood) freeway across from Hollywood Bowl and south of Universal.

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

A sunshade covers the audience at the outdoor, morning performances of Big!World!Fun!  
Breakfast items are available at on-site concessions.

### **HOW MUCH**

Children FREE

Adults \$5

Reservations are strongly recommended

### **PURCHASE/RESERVE TICKETS**

**323 461-3673**

[www.FordTheatres.org](http://www.FordTheatres.org)

There is a \$1.50 service charge for reserving children's tickets online.

### **PARKING**

On-site, stacked parking costs \$1 per vehicle.

Big!World!Fun! family events are part of the Ford Amphitheatre 2009 Season, a multi-disciplinary arts series produced by the Los Angeles County Arts Commission in cooperation with Los Angeles County-based arts organizations. For complete season information log on to **www.FordTheatres.org**.