

# Todos Santos Art Festival Going On Now

■ **Hurry, hurry, there are exciting events every day this week**

BY DESIRÉE BILON

The annual Festival del Arte Todos Santos will take place from February 4<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup>. Artistic exhibits and events including music, theatre, dance, and literature will be celebrated principally in the historical centre of Todos Santos, about an hour north of Cabo San Lucas. Most activities will be offered in one of the three major venues: the main square "Plaza Pública", the theatre "Teatro Manuel Márquez de León", and at the cultural centre "Centro Cultural Néstor Agúndez Martínez".

A few changes have been made to the artistic program this year, the first being a change of dates. The Festival del Arte always starts on the Saturday before February 5<sup>th</sup>, which is the anniversary date of the theatre's birth, and ends on the following Saturday. But because Sunday February 3<sup>rd</sup> will be election day this year, the festival will start on Monday the 4<sup>th</sup> and will end on Sunday the 10<sup>th</sup>.

As the Plaza Pública is currently under renovation, there may be a change in the location of both the opening and closing ceremonies, if it isn't finished in time. Traditionally, these ceremonies

torium if renovations to the main square are not completed by the Festival's start date.

Heriberto Parra Hake, President of the organizing committee for the Festival,

asserts that the philosophy behind the event is to get Todosanteños (people originally from Todos Santos) involved in artistic events.

Although the event was not designed with foreigners in mind, they are most welcome to participate. The principal goal behind the festival is to expose people to the arts and for this reason there is no admission charge for any of the performances, however, donations can be made at the theatre and *continued on page 36*

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have been held in the Plaza Pública, the main square. The opening ceremonies will commence at 7:00 pm on Monday the 4<sup>th</sup> in the Cultural Center with the showing of regional paintings and artisan crafts. From the Cultural Center, everyone will walk to a new sculpture in town, "Vestigos de aleteo" by Paco Gómez, which will be unveiled. Afterwards everyone will proceed to the main square or to the auditorium for the opening show, a spectacle of dance, performed by the internationally renowned Compañía de Danza Folklórica de la Universidad Autónoma de Chihuahua, with live music accompaniment. Although the closing ceremony will be officially held on Sunday February 10, the headliner Rocio Banquels, a famous actress and singer, will be performing on Saturday night. This year, both the opening and closing ceremonies will be held in the audi-



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T.S. ART FESTIVAL...  
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would be greatly appreciated. The festival and the theatre are in dire need of additional funding and any support would be of great assistance. Anyone wishing to volunteer, for example to assist in decorations for the festival, should contact Mr. Heriberto Parra Hake at: hparra@prodigy.net.mx

Although businesses in Todos Santos have been asked to offer their assistance financially, it seems that there is a genuine lack of participation on the part of business owners in town, although businesses benefit greatly from the influx of people visiting and participating in the festival.

The major cost of producing the festival is the food. The festival committee is responsible for feeding all those performing. Restaurants could offer to take turns feeding a performing group each night, as this would greatly reduce food costs.

Every night at 8:00 pm a gala event composed of music, theatre, or dance will be held at the theatre. Another venue, outside of the historical center, the audio/visual lab of the "CECYT 02" (the preparatory school), will host film presentations daily at 10:00 am. The parking lot of Hotel

California will be the site the arts and crafts exhibits.

Daily expositions from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm at the Cultural Centre include: paintings from the 3rd Bienal Sudcaliforniana de Pintura Carlos Olachea which have been selected by a panel of judges including curators from the Bellas Artes in Mexico City, as well as a regional arts and crafts exhibit. Two exhibits will be available for viewing at the theatre, every day from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm. The first is photos of orchids and orchid plants and the second is a collection of all the Festival del Arte posters from the previous years.

Specific workshops designed to promote literacy will be held from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm at the cultural center on the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> of February. The various themes are: oral

narration, as well as reading from a stand in front of an audience.

As it is a holiday, Monday the 4<sup>th</sup> will be the day with the most performances. Numerous concerts and a dance per-

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formance will be presented by students from the State University UABCS. Remember that Monday is also the day of the opening ceremonies and is sure to be an exciting day.

On Wednesday the 6<sup>th</sup> at the theatre, the theatrical group "Ollin" will perform "El Desván de Cri-Cri". This a delightful play full of singing and dancing adorned with beautiful costumes. Two shows will be held, one at 10:00 am with the younger children ages kindergarten to grade three and then again at 12:00 pm the older kids from the 4<sup>th</sup> grade to 6<sup>th</sup> grade will enjoy the show. On Friday the 8<sup>th</sup>, children from the play schools in Todos Santos and

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Pescadero will present a homage to Cri-Cri with "Rondas".

Saturday and Sunday will be the best days, with the program full of numerous activities and performances. Both days you can admire art by regional and foreign artists at the plaza as well as regional and Mexican arts and crafts at the Hotel California parking lot. For the first time ever the Feria del libro (Book Fair,) will have ten publishing houses presenting their books.

A video and conference concerning the protection of marine turtles will held at 10:00 am in the main square. This will be followed by a demonstration of traditional palm weaving and clay modeling, starting at noon. On the weekend, the film "An Inconvenient Truth" by Al Gore will be presented both days in English at 11:00 am followed

by a Spanish presentation at 12:30 pm.

Saturday night is to be an exceptional night for music, including performances by a duo playing Bossa Nova at 7:00 pm. At 8:00 pm a very special guest, the actress/singer Rocio Banquels, will perform in concert. Banquels is famous for her current role in the Mexican soap opera "Pasión" as well as her performances in musicals such as Evita.

On Sunday at 2:00 pm Valores Todosantenses will present folkloric dancing from Todos Santos. At 8:00 pm on Sunday the official closing ceremony will begin and the last performance will follow, "La Cantante Calva" by Eugene Ionesco will be performed by Altaira Theatrical Group.

Everyday of the festival offers something a little different, with something for everyone. ✎

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