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MEDIA ADVISORY

Latin D.C. Dance Company to Host 17th Annual National Cinco de Mayo Festival

"Officially, Cinco de Mayo is a Mexican holiday, but we have turned it into a day of celebration for all Latinos living here and for all Americans who enjoy the culture," Montero said. "Our Festival is like the Latino St. Patrick's Day. That's why we say, 'On Cinco de Mayo, everybody's Latino.'"

What: Maru Montero Dance Company will host its annual National Cinco de Mayo Festival on May 3 to bring

together people of all nationalities in order to celebrate Latin American culture. A stage will be set up for salsa, Mexican folk dancing, mariachi, and merengue performances. A children's pavilion will host arts and crafts activities where kids can make piñatas, braid hair, build dancing puppets, and play *lotería* (Mexican bingo) to win prizes. Highlights at the day-long free festival include:

- 1. Dance performances including pre-Hispanic, folk and salsa
- 2. Live musical performances
- 3. Children's traditional arts and crafts
- 4. Mexican market
- 5. Eclectic mix of Latin American food

When: Sunday, May 3, 2009 from noon to 6 p.m. RAIN OR SHINE!

Where: National Mall. Sylvan Theater at the base of the Washington Monument, 15th Street SW and Independence Avenue SW, Washington, D.C. 20024. Take METRO (Smithsonian Station).



Photo by Gary Jean Photography

Who: The festival is organized by the Maru Montero Dance Company with support from Gold Sponsors Target and McDonalds, Media Sponsor Univision, Silver Sponsor MAYA Advertising & Communications and Bronze Sponsor the D.C. Office of Latino Affairs.

About MMDC: Founded in 1992, the Maru Montero Dance Company has emerged as one of the finest and most popular Latin dance companies in the nation's capital, performing Mexican folk, cha-cha, mambo, salsa, tango and many other dances from Latin America. The company, founded by former Ballet Folklórico de México lead dancer Maru Montero, is a non-profit 501(c)3 corporation dedicated to promoting the joy and beauty of Latin culture in the United States. MMDC performs at various venues around the district and offers a wide selection of Latin American dance programs. Visit www.marumontero.com for more information.

To schedule an interview with Maru Montero, contact: Kate Faxon-St. Georges 202-337-0566 x 121 kate@mayadc.com

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