APPALSHOP AND THE GUADALUPE CULTURAL ARTS CENTER PRESENT

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COMING TOGETHER

APPALSHOP
APRIL 10-20, 1991

GUADALUPE CULTURAL ARTS CENTER
JUNE 1-30, 1991

An Appalachian and Chicano Cultural Exchange
Francisco Gonzales was born and raised in East Los Angeles where many of the musical traditions of Mexico converge. Growing up he acquired a first-hand knowledge of jazz, rock, salsa, norteno and jarocho musical traditions from which he later drew as a street musician, and as co-founder, leader, and composer of Los Lobos (1973 to 1976). Since the 1970's, he has pioneered the use of Mexican and Chico music in theatrical productions, and has won several awards as Music Director of El Teatro Campesino. In addition to theater work, Francisco regularly performs jarocho and norteno music individually and with Yolanda Broyles Gonzalez and Roberto Perales, who make up his trio, Francisco Gonzalez y su Conjunto.

Ruby Nelda Perez will perform A Woman's Work, her internationally acclaimed one-woman bilingual play, written by Latina writers Silviana Wood, Mary Sue Galindo, Enedina Casarez-Vasquez, Beverly Sanchez-Padilla, and Denise Chavez. Ruby has toured A Woman's Work, which focuses on issues confronting the contemporary woman, in Peru, Mexico, and across the United States. She is a member of Los Actores de San Antonio, the resident theater company of the Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center. Los Actores presents three to four plays each year, often incorporating both English and Spanish to allow audiences of all ages and backgrounds to understand and appreciate their work. In July 1988, the Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center hosted the TENAZ XIV International Festival of Chico Latino Theatre. They will present the Festival once again in 1992.

Roadside Theater draws on its Appalachian heritage of storytelling, music, and the church to created new plays. Roadside's members, most all natives of the region, weave a natural storytelling style with acting and music, as they explain the place where they grew up, live, and work. The company enjoys performing for audiences at home and for the communities they tour to across the United States.

One of the most influential stylists of conjunto, Valerio Longoria literally grew up playing the accordion. Never bound by tradition, Valerio is often called a genius and a pioneer not only for his vast legacy of original music - many now standards - but also for the string of conjunto music firsts credited to him. Equally at ease with country rock and jazzy blues as with chotises and polkas, Valerio's free and expressive accordion style has been a significant influence on many younger accordionists. One of the first to be inducted into the Conjunto Music Hall of Fame, Valerio Longoria was declared a national treasure in 1986 and awarded the National Heritage Award by the National Endowment for the Arts. He will be joined by his sons Valerio Jr. and Flavio, his grandson Valerio IV, and Juan Garcia.

Lee Sexton has lived all his life in Letcher County, Kentucky, where he is a mainstay of the area's traditional music. He is eastern Kentucky's master of the drop-thumb banjo, which he has been playing for over fifty years. His music can be heard on his June Appal release, Whoa Mule, which was included in the Library of Congress Select List for 1989. His band also features his son Phil, his daughter-in-law Deborah, and Marion Sumner (long known as fiddle king of the South).

Etta Baker, from Morganton, North Carolina, is part of the black tradition of blues music and fingerpicking guitar of the North Carolina and Virginia piedmont. Music was common in her family; they played banjo, guitar, violin, and harmonica. Her main teacher was her father, who taught her the first chords when she was three. They played old-time country music, not discovering blues until they moved to Virginia. Today Etta plays blues, country, and a few gospel pieces. She has received the North Carolina Folk Arts Award.
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