

People -mostly young people-are the components of a Latin American and Chilean Folk Dance and Music Group,that represent the community of Chilean Workers In Edmonton.

This group has made itself quite known including within Canadian people because of the special choreography adaptation that they have arranged of the "Cantata Popular Santa Maria de Iquique" created by Luis Advis.

We talked with their director and some of its members,so as to know their experiences and at the same time to let them be acquainted with the Edmonton community ,emphasizing on all that they have obtained as a result of their action as a group.

The group has approximately forty members having initiated their activities in August 1975.

LATIN REPORT:What are the main purpose of the group?

(Answers the Director of the Goup)

I must point out that the group is only a part of a whole cultural manifestation of the Chilean residing in Edmonton and by performing our work we propose to

and Allende's fall(1973).

It is set to last sixty minutes and it will have the participation of about thirty persons.

#### THE PARTICIPANTS:

Who has answered us is the artistic director of the Group,Gabriel Cabrolier,Physical Education teacher in Chile, and who does the same job here. He is 24 years-old.

In his directing activities he has the close cooperation of one committee formed by Fernando Gonzalez and Julio Ocarez.

We will finally pick up some of opinions expressed by other members of the Group; whom we asked what they personally felt about participating in dancing.

"I think that the most important fact to stand out ,is that all this has been done in order to show the actual Chilean reality "(Pilar Gonzalez,Primary schoolteacher in Chile,a Spanish teacher for a private academy in Edmonton).

"We don't pretend to be artists, but only to express our main situation,coincides another "(Marcia Ravest,a student of Social

Work in Chile,unemployed in Ed-

## The Meaning of Folk Ballet



establish some permanent communication with the Canadian media.

As we know that this will be difficult owing to our different languages,we wish to express ourselves through the dance and it's movement trying to deliver what feel is happening in Chile today.

LATIN REPORT:How can you do this with persons who had no experience in dancing?

DIRECTOR:Our purpose is not to

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"We try to show what is our and to maintain alive our own cultural assets ,that now are being repressed in our country"(Ricardo Rosales,a bank clerk in Chile, a watchman here in Edmonton).

"It must be understood that what we pretend is to let people know about Chile and its reality and also to help gathering funds" (Julio Ocarez,a public administration clerk and Commerce student in Chile,a worker in Edmonton).

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DIRECTOR: Our purpose is not to find perfectionism in dancing, for we feel that dancing means nothing in itself, but rather as a form of expression, a means of communicating.

The important thing is that the participants understood this perceiving what we wanted. This helped to overcome inexperience difficulties together with the fact that wanted to do it and really made an effort.

LR.- Apart from the "Cantata Santa Maria", have you prepared or presented other works?

D.- Yes, we inaugurated "El Desafio" (The Challenge) a script and dances that is based on music from the Province of Maule (Central Chile). It was set on stage with the musical collaboration of Marcelo Puentel, a friend from Toronto.

We have also presented a dance rhapsody of the central zone of

Chile and of the southern Province of Chiloe.

In this moment, the group is preparing a show based on music that Mikis Teodorakis prepared for Costa Gavras Film "State of Siege".

This work tries to show the political process in Chile, between Frei's Government (1964-1970)

Edmonton).

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"Our main task is to show the social situation in our country, and to maintain our principle values here within our community" (Fernando Gonzalez, a draftman student in Chile, an operator here, 29 years-old).

Other members include: Monica Lee (Mathematics student in Chile, Sears Saleswoman in Edmonton), Monica Chavez (Obstetrician in Chile; a hospital house keeper in Edmonton), Sergio Flores (a high school student in Chile, the same here), Patricio Gonzalez (Architecture student in Chile, a workman here), Scarlet Gonzalez (Physical Education student in Chile, a saleswoman here).

Also we should especially like to mention some members that aren't Chilean and that give their enthusiasm and artistic talents to the Group:

Alejandro Garcia, a Spaniard, from Segovia who has been here a year and a half. He was welder in his country and performs the same activity over here. He is 22-years-old.

Maria Thomas, a Canadian, high school student; Anna Thomas, Canadian, high school student; Myro Coccari, Yugoslavian, sculptor, and Lois Harvey, Canadian teacher.



# El significado de danzar

Gente - la mayoría joven- compone el conjunto de danzas folklóricas chilenas y latinoamericanas del Grupo de Trabajadores Chilenos en Edmonton. El conjunto ha llegado a hacerse conocido incluso en medios canadienses por la novedosa adaptación coreográfica que ha hecho de la obra de Luis Avis "Cantata Popular Santa María de Iquique".

Hemos charlado con su director y algunos de sus integrantes con el objeto de conocer sus experiencias y darlas a conocer, destacando el aporte que como resultado de la acción de l grupo se ha conseguido.

El conjunto lo integran aproximadamente 40 personas y comenzaron su tarea en agosto del año pasado.

LATIN REPORT: Qué objetivos busca el Grupo? (Quien contesta es



el director del conjunto).

Debo señalar que el grupo es parte de todo un movimiento cultural de los chilenos en Edmonton y al mostrar nuestra obra nos hemos propuesto establecer una comunicación con el medio canadiense. Considerando que por la diferencia de lengua esa comunicación nos es muy difícil, hemos hecho del movimiento de la expresión mediante la danza, un modo de lenguaje para poder comunicar lo que significa la realidad chilena de hoy.

LR.- Cómo pudo emprenderse esto con personas que no tenían experiencia previa en danza?

DIRECTOR :Nuestra idea no es la búsqueda de un perfeccionismo en la danza, en la medida que la danza no se justifica en sí misma, sino como expresión

Lo importante fue que la gente tuvo conocimiento y captó lo que se quería. Ello contribuyó a superar las dificultades de inexperiencia, sumado al hecho de querer hacerlo y esforzarse en ello.

LR.- Aparte de la "Cantata Santa María", ustedes han presentado o preparan otras obras?

D.- Si, hemos estrenado "El Desafío" una obra argumental y de danzas que toma música de la provincia de Maule y que, fue montada con la colaboración musical de Marcelo Puente, un amigo de Toronto. Además hemos presentado una rapsodia de danzas de la zona central de Chile y de la provincia sureña de Chiloé.

Actualmente el Grupo prepara un espectáculo basado en la música que Mikis Teodorakis hizo para la película de Costas Gavras "Estado de Sitio". Esta obra muestra el proceso político de Chile

entre el gobierno de Frei(1964-1970) y la caída de Allende(1973). La obra dura sesenta minutos y en ella intervendrán cerca de treinta personas.

#### LOS INTEGRANTES.-

Quien nos ha respondido es el director artístico del Grupo, Gabriel Cabrolier, profesor de Educación Física en Chile y que aquí se desempeña en la misma profesión. Tiene 24 años de edad.

El nos aclara que además es secundado en la dirección por un comité que también integran Fernando González y Julio Ocárez.

Recogemos, finalmente, las impresiones de algunos integrantes del grupo, a quienes preguntamos por las experiencias que en lo personal representa el baile:

"Creo que lo importante es destacar que esto se ha hecho para mostrar la realidad chilena" (Pilar González, profesora de Educación Básica en Chile, aquí profesora de Español en una academia privada).

"No pretendemos ser artistas, sino comunicar lo nuestro, nuestra problemática" (Marcia Ravest, estudiante de Servicio Social, sin ocupación aquí).

Traemos de mostrar lo nuestro y mantener viva nuestra cultura, hoy reprimida en nuestra patria" (Ricardo Rosales, empleado bancario en Chile, cuidador de un local aquí en Edmonton).

"Debe destacarse que pretendemos dar a conocer a Chile, su realidad y también, ayudar con fondos" (Julio Ocárez, empleado de la Corfo -una entidad pública en Chile-, y estudiante de Comercialización; obrero aquí).

"nuestro objetivo esencial es mostrar nuestra problemática social y mantener vivos los principios entre nuestra comunidad" (Fernando González, dibujante técnico en Chile, operario aquí, 29 años).

Otros integrantes: Mónica Lee (estudiante de Matemáticas en Chile, vendedora en Sears, en Edmonton) Mónica Chávez (matrona en Chile, house keeper en un hospital en Edmonton), Sergio Flores (estudiante secundario en Chile, estudiante aquí), Patricio González (estudiante de Arquitectura en Chile, obrero aquí), Scarlet González (estudiante de Educación Física en Chile, vendedora aquí).

Chile, vendedora aquí), Luis Pereira (25 años, soldado en Chile, aquí trabaja en la Plant National).

También debe nombrarse muy especialmente a algunos integrantes que no son chilenos y que aportan su entusiasmo y calidad artística al Grupo:

Alejandro García, español, natural de Segovia; lleva un año y medio aquí. Era soldado en su patria y aquí ejerce la misma actividad. Tiene 22 años. María Thomas, canadiense, estudiante de high school. Anna Thomas, canadiense, hermana de la anterior, igualmente estudiante.