

LINDA ANDRADE

Dance Workshops

MEET THE ARTIST:

Linda Andrade is a multi-talented performer whose first love is Flamenco Dance. She was born in Los Angeles, and began her Flamenco studies in this country. Eventually she moved to the south of Spain to immerse herself in the purest form of Flamenco, which has been kept alive by several Gypsy families who hand down their traditions from generation to generation. There, Linda had the opportunity to study with some of the greatest living masters of the art form. Her love of “Flamenco Puro” is what she is best known for, and is reflected in her style of dance.

In addition to her dancing, she has worked in theater and on screen. Some of her credits include co-starring roles in several award-winning plays by Federico Garcia Lorca at the Bilingual Foundation of the Arts, directed by Margarita Galban and produced Carmen Zapata. In addition, she co-starred at the Fountain Theater in Hollywood as “Elena” (Helen of Troy) in the critically-acclaimed “Women of Guernica,” a Flamenco-style adaptation of Euripides’ “Trojan Women.” Her film credits include a featured role in “The Disappearance of Garcia Lorca” with Andy Garcia & Miguel Ferrer. In addition to teaching Flamenco dance, Linda founded, directs and dances in “The Art of Flamenco” dinner show at “Sevilla Restaurant” in Riverside.



ABOUT THE WORKSHOPS:

In this workshop series, appropriate for grade levels 3-8, Linda begins by introducing students to Spanish Gypsy history, cultural traditions, lifestyle and the evolution of Flamenco as an art form. Her strong artistry inspires students to express themselves through hand, arm and body movement, as well as rhythmic footwork. The strong rhythmic base of flamenco helps students develop coordination skills through the exploration of stylistic movement, footwork and clapping. Short video clips feature a young male Gypsy dancer performing an exciting footwork section and a scene from a traditional Gypsy “juerga,” or impromptu musical gathering, focusing

on a young Gypsy girl dancing. Students will also discuss and analyze what they observed and how it relates to their work. Appropriate Spanish terms used in Flamenco dance will be woven throughout the lessons, building a vocabulary of terms. Students will practice a proud Flamenco stance while connecting hand, arm and body movements, as well as clapping with clear rhythm, even tempo and sharp accents. The various rhythms and patterns will be combined into 16-count phrases that fit into the 4-count rhythms. Connections will be made between the guitar music and the rhythmic dance patterns. Throughout, students will learn to appreciate and value the importance of practice through continuous repetition, as well as cooperate, support and inspire one another through steady hand-clapping and uplifting shouts of encouragement.

Finally, they will execute a dance study in its entirety, connecting and combining the basic elements and skills of the dance style.

BEFORE THE WORKSHOP:

- Please have the students wear nametags for the workshop. It saves times if they are made beforehand!
- Review the importance of listening and observing. Ask the students what it means to be a good listener. What does it mean to be a good observer? Why is it important in daily life? Why is it important when the artist is here?
- Discuss the importance of being able to express oneself through movement and dance. Where can they use this skill in their lives?
- Discuss various forms of "dance" with your students. Have the students describe any dance concerts they have attended. Ask them to bring in any pictures of dance they might have.
- Show your students a map of Spain. Ask students what they know about Spain or Spanish culture. Have they ever heard or seen Spanish flamenco dance? If so, have them describe it and give their impressions.
- Make sure the students know they will be working with a professional artist who makes her living from creating, performing and teaching dance. Reassure them that they are not expected to be expert dancers, but should be ready to listen carefully and be willing to try as the artist teaches them about dances that carry with them the history of the people who created them.
- Remind students to wear comfortable clothing.

AFTER THE WORKSHOP:

- Review the major points presented in the workshops. What did they learn about dance? What did they learn about Spanish flamenco dance? What did they learn about themselves?
- Review and practice the warm-ups, skills and dance combinations done in class so students can attain more comfort, ability and involvement in movement and dance.
- Ask students to find connections to what they have learned and other areas of their lives, as well as the curriculum.