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‘LA VIRGEN DEL TEPEYAC’ RETURNS TO MISSION SAN JUAN BAUTISTA

Celebrating four decades of tradition at the beautiful Old Mission in San Juan Bautista, El Teatro Campesino returns with its beloved biennial spectacle of vibrant music, sacral theater and Aztec dance—the 2010 production of LA VIRGEN DEL TEPEYAC.

This special Christmas offering dramatizing the four apparitions of Our Lady of Guadalupe to the Indian messenger Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoctzin in 1531 is a joyous re-enactment of the miraculous events that inspired the religious rebirth of Indigenous Mexico, a mere ten years after the Spanish Conquest.

Appearing in a powerful vision of light and faith one early morning in December, the Mother of Christ spoke to the newly baptized Juan Diego in his native Aztec language, visiting him a total of four times, culminating in the miracle of the roses.

Adapted by Luis Valdez from an anonymous 17th century text, the miracle play of LA VIRGEN DEL TEPEYAC is presented entirely in classical Spanish and Nahuatl (Aztec) with accompanying librettos for English speaking audiences. Attended by literally hundreds of thousands of faithful followers, farm worker families and urban theater aficionados over the decades, the spirit and music of this powerful production transcend

all language barriers, providing a highly moving and joyous experience for all, touching on the spiritual essence of the holiday season.

Directed by El Teatro Campesino's Adrian Torres – with musical direction by Emiliano Valdez and Tim Tompkins, and choreography by Janet Johns – this year's production features a brand-new company of performers and designers working to bring this colorful pageant of music, dance and drama to spectacular life in the historic 200 year-old California Mission basilica.

Tickets can be purchased by phoning 831.623.2444, Monday through Friday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. or by visiting www.elteatrocampesino.com. “La Virgen del Tepeyac” opens Nov. 26 and runs through Dec. 19.