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YUCATAN GUEST OFFERS DANCING TIPS

Yucatan master teacher Luisa Rodriguez Berzunza has been the guest of San Jose folkloric dance troupe Xochipilli for the past month.

Besides conducting a workshop for the public Aug. 1 through 3, the Mexican dance expert has been conducting intensive classes during Xochipilli's twice-weekly rehearsals.

She was to return to Merida, Mexico, this week.

Xochipilli director Mayella Gardea estimated the company has brought six such teachers to San Jose in the 10 years since it was formed.

Rodriguez taught Yucatan dances to representatives of 12 groups from as far away as Sacramento during the long weekend workshop, said Gardea, who shares directorial chores with Russell Rodriguez. Working with Xochipilli, Rodriguez lectured for an hour during each rehearsal, then worked five hours with the 20 dancers, ages 10 through about 45.

She is co-director of El Ballet Oficial del Gobierno del Estado de Yucatan, the official dance troupe of the state of Yucatan. Rodriguez also worked with Xochipilli in San Jose in 1979.

Xochipilli's "maestro" program is funded by the Arts Council of Santa Clara County.

The group celebrated its 10th year with a show in June at Montgomery Theater. Its next program is at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 20, also at Montgomery. Xochipilli also will perform at 3 p.m. Sept. 31 at Mission Carmel.

Represented at the recent workshop were: Alma Costumbrista, San Jose; Ballet Folklorico de Carlos Moreno, Oakland; Ballet Guadalajara, Oakland; Danzantes del Alma, University of California at Davis; Danzantes de Alegria, Fremont; Grupo Aztlan, San Francisco; Grupo Folklorico, Stanford; Los Lupenos, San Jose; Los Mexicas, Santa Cruz; Los Mestizos, San Jose; Mizoc, Sacramento; and Raices de Mexico, East Palo Alto.

CAPTION: Special to the Mercury News Bobby Esquibel, left, and Christina Rangel lead the way during a colorful Mexican scarf dance

Special to the Mercury News Luisa Rodriguez Berzunza demonstrates how to dance while balancing a bottle

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