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**THE AMERICAS FOUNDATION PRESENTS THE LITTLE PRINCE BALLET SUNDAY
MAY 4, 2003 AT MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART SAN DIEGO IN LA JOLLA**

It is only with one's heart that one can see clearly.

What is essential is invisible to the eye.

(Antoine de Saint-Exupéry)

The US premiere of the full length ballet The Little Prince will be performed by the dancers of Colegio la Esperanza and The Americas Foundation, on Sunday, May 4th at 3:00 p.m. at the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego at La Jolla. It's not everyday that one has an opportunity to see a ballet adapted from a French novel, choreographed by a Kirov trained Russian ballet master, and performed by Mexican children and Russian Ballerinas in La Jolla. It's a small world... and in this ballet, the star is a small person with a big heart and a big message

The performance is a fundraiser that will support the new Colegio la Esperanza High School which will be a first High School in the Tijuana Sanchez Taboada Canyon area where 180,000 people live. The Colegio La Esperanza preschool, elementary school and fine arts programs for 300 Tijuana children were founded in 1988 by Christine Brady and the Americas Foundation Fundación de las Américas with the help of the La Jolla and Tijuana La Mesa Rotary clubs and Princeton alumni.

Based on the classic novel Le Petit Prince by Antoine de Saint Exupery, the ballet's original choreography has been created by Valeri Tchekachev, who trained along with Mikail Barishnikov at the famed Vaganova academy of the Kirov ballet in St. Petersburg, Russia and came to Tijuana with his ballerina wife Tatiana three years ago to teach at the nonprofit Colegio La Esperanza, where all 300 students ages four to thirteen study ballet along with special classes in Music, Computation, English and Plastic Arts.

... Tchekachev feels that "With dance, I can bring the whole world to children," said. "My class is about ballet, but it is also folklorico and the art of the body." The Russian artist has previously choreographed two other full length ballets for Tijuana, the critically acclaimed "Titanic" presented at the Centro Cultural of Tijuana in 1999 and "Don Quixote Comes to Tijuana" performed at the University (UABC) in 2000 and 2001.

Local artist James Hubbell designed the sets for the ballet. He also designed the Esperanza schools and continues to participate in the building process with volunteers monthly. He has created an elegant tapestry of tile, stained glass, and organic architecture that make the schools appear like magical citadels in their impoverished surrounding Colonia.

The Little Prince, as it is known in English, is a metaphorical tale rich with philosophical undertones. The two act ballet opens with a circus ballet representing fantasy of the child's mind and proceeds through the heavenly and desert sequences with the corp de ballet as stars, asteroids, astonomers, roses, foxes, lamplighters and characters from the French classic.

There will be a Gran Kermesse prior to and during intermission of the Sunday afternoon performance. For information and reservations, contact Pat Anderson at (760) 480-1014 or email at: patsey@nctimes.net or see <http://www.americasfoundation.net> Tickets are \$15 for everyone.