



Ecuadorian Ballet

By Elizabeth Cobarrubias | April 18, 2011

Bright color, lively traditional music and elegant moves best describe the ballet “Entretejidos de memorias Quito, siglo XIX”, directed by Rubén Guarderas. On my last day within the program I was lucky enough to find out about the free ballet going on at the Teatro Nacional Casa de la Cultura. La Casa de la Cultura is a very useful source in Quito. It offers many events that are all free to the public. Some of what it offers are plays, concerts, ballets, movies screenings, documentaries and it also showcases a museum and various different art gallery showings.



The ballet I saw was quite amazing I must admit, it incorporated many aspects of the Ecuadorian culture and how it's evolved by historic happenings. It contained many scenes showing traditional indigenous life and daily chores. Interestingly after being in Ecuador for a few months I was able to distinguish between and identify the different indigenous groups that were represented by the tools they used and their dress attire. I was also able to recognize where these groups originate from geographically within Ecuador.



The play also portrayed the different eras Ecuador has gone through, and the impact that the Spanish had and the impact of religion. It did a good job of showing the social rankings and the main historic events that went on during the era XIX and that impacted the culture at the time. The play consisted of seven acts: Mientras la ciudad duerme, Nuevo día, El comercio, Fiesta de pelucones, Migrantes de la costa, Vientos liberales, Jolgorio popular. (While the city sleeps, a new day, the market, Party of the rich, migrants from the coast, liberal winds, popular glory).



I really enjoyed seeing the various wardrobes used and the differences between the traditional indigenous outfits and the colonial fancy dresses. The play consisted of many props and was rich in vibrant colors. The dancers were very elegant and carried out the roles very well. It was nice to see how it incorporated different styles of dance accompanied by the appropriate music. Although it contained many aspects of traditional ballet, the incorporation of the Ecuadorian culture and music made it very different than any other ballet I had gone to see. It's always nice to

see how things are modified, change and adapt to cultural influences. Overall I really enjoyed the ballet and wish I had time to go back and watch another.