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Press contacts: Rochelle Fabb/Brittany Gash, 877-853-7475, loudmouthpr2@yahoo.com



**“Fire & Soul: LA Women Unite for Tía Chucha’s Centro Cultural”
August 1 at the Ford Amphitheatre**

HOLLYWOOD, CA – Tía Chucha’s Centro Cultural - Los Angeles’ “City Lights” for Mexican/Chicano/Central American literary, spoken word and music culture – is a landmark, nonprofit arts venue and independent bookstore in the Northeast San Fernando Valley. Tia Chucha’s presents a powerhouse lineup of female performers for its fourth annual benefit concert Sunday August 1, 2010 at 7:00 PM, at the Ford Amphitheatre.

Encouraged to go solo by Leonard Cohen, for whom she was a backup singer and became a well-respected interpreter of Cohen’s music (*Bird on the Wire* and *Leonard Cohen: I’m Your Man*), Grammy-nominated vocalist-composer **Perla Batalla** cross-pollinates Latin and American pop musical traditions and has performed with k.d. lang, Nick Cave and Laurie Anderson. Spellbinding Guggenheim and Emmy award winner and National Book Award finalist **Wanda Coleman** is known as the high priestess of LA poetry. Alternative Latin rocker **Ceci Bastida** combines the “smokiness of Juana Molina and the swaggering edge of Nelly Furtado” (*LA Weekly*). Performance artist extraordinaire **Kristina Wong** is “brutal but hilarious” (*East Bay Express*). **Las Ramonas**, a bold East LA Chicana sketch comedy troupe opens the show with their saber sharp social commentary. A special ceremonial blessing will be performed by **Temachtia Quetzalcoatl**, Tía Chucha’s resident Aztec dance company, and **Power 106** radio personality **Wendy Carrillo** hosts this year’s cross-cultural Angelino extravaganza.

Tía Chucha's co-founders, Luis and Trini Rodríguez, are life-long activists for community, youth, the arts, and inner-core transformative work with disaffected and neglected communities. A former gang member, drug addict & alcoholic, Luis changed his own life to contribute to a new imagination about relationships and how to manage resources to achieve true equity, social justice, and healthy lives on a healthy earth. His writings have been widely acclaimed, including his best seller, *Always Running*, *La Vida Loca*, *Gang Days in LA* and the highly recommended *Hearts & Hands: Creating Community in Violent Times*. His wife Trini, grew up in a large

Mexican working class family in Pacoima, and through tapping into the power of education, political and spiritual development has become a dedicated community leader and mentor to many in the Northeast San Fernando Valley.

Tía Chucha's is a cultural complex that includes a press, bookstore, art gallery, performance space, and workshop center that has been in the community of Sylmar for nearly a decade. In that time, writers such as Sandra Cisneros and Victor Villaseñor have read there along with performances by Culture Clash, Lalo Alcaraz, Quetzal, the late Lalo Guerrero, and many other musicians, theater groups, comedians, artists, writers, and community leaders. For the community, the venue offers: movie and poetry nights, open mics, lectures, free workshops and classes in Spanish and Aztec dance and an Azteca group that performs different ceremonies. It is also home to Tia Chucha Press, which publishes books from poets across the country. Their annual Celebrating Words Festival is the only literacy-focused outdoor festival in the region.

LINKS TO ARTISTS WEBSITES:

Tía Chucha's Centro Cultural - www.tiachucha.com OR KTLA feature story

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hq2sMRZyZaI>

CECI BASTIDA - www.myspace.com/cecibastida

PERLA BATALLA - www.myspace.com/perlabatalla

WANDA COLEMAN - www.myspace.com/bathwaterwine

KRISTINA WONG - www.kristinawong.com

LAS RAMONAS - <http://lasramonas.com/>

Tickets are priced at \$25 if you purchase on or before July 25, \$30 if purchased later. A special price of \$12 is available for students and children. To purchase tickets, log on to www.FordTheatres.org or call the Ford Box Office at **323 (GO 1-FORD) 461-3673**.

The Ford Amphitheatre is located at 2580 Cahuenga Blvd. East, Hollywood, CA 90068, just off the 101 Hollywood Freeway across from the Hollywood Bowl and south of Universal Studios. The grounds open two hours before show time for picnicking. The Ford offers a number of dining options: a variety of food and beverages is available on site and box dinners for evening events may be ordered in advance. Patrons are welcome to bring their own food and drink. The Ford is disabled accessible. Portable wireless listening devices are available upon request.

On-site, stacked parking costs \$5 per vehicle for evening shows and \$1 per vehicle for morning family shows. For evening shows only, **FREE non-stacked parking serviced by a FREE shuttle to the Ford, for evening amphitheatre performances only**, is available at the Universal City Metro Station lot at Lankershim Blvd. and Campo de Cahuenga. The shuttle, which cycles every 15-20 minutes, stops in the "kiss and ride" area.

This event is part of the Ford Amphitheatre 2010 Season, a multi-disciplinary arts series produced by the Los Angeles County Arts Commission in cooperation with Los Angeles County-based arts organizations. For a complete season schedule, directions to the theater and parking information, log on to www.FordTheatres.org.