

# BATISTA GREMAUD

## *Dance Workshops*

### MEET THE ARTIST:

Flamenco artist **Batista Gremaud** started her dance career at the age of three, at her mother's *Academy of Dance* in Fribourg, Switzerland. She pursued her dance training in Geneva, the Netherlands, France and Spain, and performed with companies throughout Europe.

Today, Batista is a Los Angeles-area educator, dancer and choreographer whose repertoire of over twenty-five choreographies include the ballet, dance/theater, public television performances, summer concert series and video productions. As a dancer and soloist with *Lola Montes and Her Spanish Dancers*, Batista has performed in many cultural arts centers, major auditoriums and venues nationwide and throughout California. She performed with the Los Angeles Opera, in the production of *Carmen*, directed by Placido Domingo.

Since her arrival in Los Angeles, in 1982, Batista has taught ballet, flamenco, classical Spanish dance and creative movement to children and adults of all ages in many studios, prior to opening her own in 1998, Marina Dance Center, (which was destroyed by fire in 2005.)

As a teaching artist with the Music Center, she has conducted "Artist in Residence" workshops for 12 years as a Wolf Trap Artist in schools around the greater Los Angeles area, LAUSD and Head Start sites, while implementing standards-based classes. In 2005, Batista opened a new studio, "Flamenco Los Angeles" and developed a program titled "California Heritage". In addition, Batista is a fluent speaker of three languages - English, Spanish and French.



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### ABOUT THE WORKSHOPS:

This unique workshop incorporates three performing art forms: dance, music and theatre art. Together the teachers, students and the artist create a musical play based on an age appropriate story. While undergoing this process, some of the following elements are explored:

- Moving in a variety of ways through space
- Choreographing a dance using expressive movement
- Developing musical skills (rhythmic and dynamic)
- Using the voice and speech appropriately

This workshop enhances self identity, while developing the consciousness of working harmoniously as a team to accomplish a common goal. Concrete tools are shared with teachers to help in classroom and space management. In

addition, this workshop helps students to develop speech and increase vocabulary, while reinforcing mathematical skills (counting, shapes, sorting and sequence).



### **BEFORE THE WORKSHOP:**

- Please have the students wear nametags for the workshops.
- Establish classroom management guidelines such as raising hands before speaking.
- Review the importance of listening and observing. Ask the students what it means to be a good listener. What does it mean to be a good observer? Why is it important in daily life? Why is it important when the artist is here?
- Ask the students what they already know about acting, dancing, performing. List examples of plays, movies or cartoons they have seen that have music, acting and movement.
- Show the students a video of a dance/theatre performance (ie: Riverdance, Shirley Temple, High School Musical, Lion King, etc.)
- Discuss the importance of working as a team to create such a project
- Discuss the importance of being aware of one's personal space and one's space in relationship to others (ie: synchronized movements, spacing, lines etc...)
- Discuss how an action can express an emotion. Let the students wave "hello" to each other. Then have them use the same action but add an emotion (anger, excitement etc...) Discuss how the action changes in tempo, rhythm and energy. Have them execute the movement together in a synchronized manner.

### **AFTER THE WORKSHOP:**

- Review the major points presented in the workshops. What did they learn about dance, acting, music and how does that relate to daily activities
- Reinforce the vocabulary
- Read and further explore the chosen story
- Practice the skills learned during the workshop
- Rehearse the material (dance moves, line formations, script, etc.)