

The Renaissance

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Cinco de Mayo

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Cinco de Mayo, or the "5th of May" is not the Mexican Independence day, instead, Cinco de Mayo is the celebration of the courage of the Mexican people during the battle (La Batalla de Puebla) on May 5th, 1862, where 4,500 Mexican soldiers defeated the Mexican traitors (exiled Mexican Conservatives) and French army of 6,500 at Puebla, Mexico. Puebla is 100 miles east of Mexico City. The Mexican forces were made up of untrained commoners. This victory did not win the war but it showed the courage and strength of the Mexican troops. The "Batalla de Puebla" became a symbol of Mexican unity and patriotism.

Nicos
DANCE THEATRE

In the United States, Cinco de Mayo has taken on a significance beyond that in Mexico. The date is perhaps best recognized in the United States as a date to celebrate the culture and experiences of Americans of Mexican ancestry, much as St. Patrick's Day, Oktoberfest, and the Chinese New Year are used to celebrate those of Irish, German and Chinese ancestry respectively. Similar to those holidays, Cinco de Mayo is observed by many Americans regardless of ethnic origin.

The Mexican Hat Dance

The Mexican hat Dance, or the "Jarabe tapatio" (literally meaning "sweet syrup") is the title of a musical piece and its accompanying dance and is considered the national dance of Mexico. The music, a medley of



Mexican folk music, was composed in the 19th century by a professor of music, Jesús González Rubio. The dance in its standardized form was first choreographed by Flipa Lopez in the early twentieth century to celebrate a government-sponsored fiesta that commemorated the successful end of the Mexican Revolution.

The dance tells the story of love and courtship. A charro, dressed in the traditional charro suit, a three-piece suit composed of a vest, jacket and pants bearing silver buttons down the seam), makes initial courtship gestures to la china (wearing the

traditional China Poblana outfit). They flirt throughout the beginning of the dance, during which time the man attempts to woo the woman with his zapateado (stamping and tapping) and his machismo. Just as he has impressed the woman, he becomes drunk with glory and is shooed away as a borracho (an inebriate), but ultimately, he succeeds in conquering the china, throwing his hat to the ground and kicking his leg over his partner's head as she bends down to pick it up. The two do a triumphant march to a military tune called a diana, and the dance ends with a romantic turn or the couple hiding their faces behind the man's sombrero in a feigned kiss.



How to Make a Margarita

Margarita Recipe

*3 parts of tequila
2 parts of orange flavored liqueur
1 part of fresh lime juice
Coarse kosher salt
Lime wedge Ice cubes*

- 1) First moisten the rim of the glass with lime*
- 2) Then salt the rim of the glass*
- 3) Fill the glass with ice cubes*
- 4) Add the tequila, orange liqueur and lime juice in an ice-filled shaker.*
- 5) Pour the content into a cocktail glass.*
- 6) Possibly garnish with a slice of lime*
- 7) Drink and enjoy*