



LATIN BALLET
OF VIRGINIA

EL BESO DE LA ABEJA

THE KISS OF THE BEE



*"No more bees, no more pollination, no more plants,
no more animals, no more man." - Albert Einstein*

“EL BESO DE LA ABEJA”, The Kiss of the Bee” celebrates the beauty of our planet and the value of bees to our livelihood.

A Dance theatre work in collaboration with Spanish composer, Adolfo AdVero, artistic director, Ana Ines King from Colombia, and international Spanish choreographers and renown flamenco artists, Antonio Hidalgo Paz, Domingo Ortega and Francisco Mesa “El Nano”

The choreography combines Contemporary dance, authentic flamenco form, ritual dances from the Amazon and the Caribbean regions dance techniques, accompanied by literature and Photo/video elements.

TO BEE



Let Your Life Bee

The bees place in our world is important beyond our understanding. “They are one of the reasons, if not a main reason,” for the possibility of human development on earth. Without them, the development of life on earth, and conditions for human development may not have existed. These conditions are the appearance of the flower bearing plants and pollinators, with the bees, being the crown jewel of the pollinators. The bees, the flowers, human beings and

everything that developed alongside humans are all an interconnected series of events over an enormous amount of time.

MELISSAS

The name "Melissas" comes from the Greek word μέλισσα (*melissa*), "honey bee". According to Greek mythology, perhaps reflecting Minoan culture in making her the daughter of a Cretan king Melissos, Melissa was a nymph who discovered and taught the use of honey and from whom bees were believed to have received their name. She was one of the nymphic nurses of Zeus, sister to Amaltheia, but rather than feeding the baby milk, Melissa, appropriately for her name, fed him honey. Or, alternatively, the bees brought honey straight to his mouth.

The Beehive, as a whole is a super organism indeed a universe of life!

The matriarchal group organization of a queen and thousands of female worker bees and male drones have had to adapt and overcome all the conditions of change that can happen over 100,000,000 year period of time.

The bees are separated into different duties according to their age. There is a group of nurse bees attending to the "Queen Bee" and her needs and feeding her Royal Jelly. There are "guard bees" at the entrance. There are "foraging bees" that are waiting to go out in the fields when weather permits them to do so. They love the sun. When conditions are right, they leave the hive and fly across the fields to the flowers where they gather the materials needed for their survival, namely pollen, nectar and propolis. They have been doing this more than a hundred million years.

ZANGANOS (The Drones)

"The drone is the only male bee in the colony. Drones make up a relatively small percentage of the hive's total population. Procreation is the drone's primary purpose in life. Despite their high maintenance (they must be fed and cared for by the worker bees), drones are tolerated and allowed to remain in the hive because they may be needed to mate with a new virgin queen (when the old queen dies or needs to be superseded).

Bee mating occurs outside of the hive in mid-flight, 200 to 300 feet in the air. This location is known as the "drone Mating Area", and it can be a mile or more away from the hive. The drones die after mating!

Once the weather gets cooler and the mating season comes to a close, the workers will not tolerate having drones around. After all, those fellows have big appetites and would consume a tremendous amount of food during the perilous winter months. So in cooler climates at the end of the nectar-producing season, you will see the worker bees systematically expelling the drones from the hive. They are literally tossed out the door.

EL CANTO DE LAS REINAS – (The Song of the Queens - Piping)



Only one queen lives in a given hive. Queen bees use their stingers only to kill rival queens that may emerge or be introduced in the hive. Only one queen can survive. Queen bees are made not born and most of the reason for this appears to be her diet of royal jelly. She lives much longer because of her royal jelly diet. The Queens fight to

the death until only one remains. Unlike the worker bees, the queen's stinger is not barbed and is able to sting repeatedly without dying.

Piping: Piping is most common when there is more than one queen in a hive. It is postulated that the piping is a form of battle cry announcing to competing queens and the workers their willingness to fight. It may also be a signal to the worker bees which queen is the most worthwhile to support.

The queen bee is the heart and soul of the honey bee colony. She is the reason for nearly everything the rest of the colony does. The queen is the only bee without which the rest of the colony cannot survive. A good quality queen means a strong and productive hive.

The queen's two primary purposes are to produce chemical scents that help regulate the unity of the colony and to lay lots of eggs. She is, in fact, an egg-laying machine, capable of producing more than 1,500 eggs a day at 30-second intervals. That many eggs are more than her body weight!

Tus Besos me saben a Miel (Your Kisses taste like Honey)

The surviving queen will fly out on a sunny, warm day to a "drone congregation area". If the weather holds, she may return to the drone congregation area for several days until she is fully mated. Mating occurs in flight. The queen stores up to 6 million sperm from multiple drones in her spermatheca. She will selectively release sperm for the remaining 2–7 years of her life.



The queen has a limited time to mate. If she is unable to fly for several days because of bad weather and remains unmated, she will become a "drone layer." Drone-laying queens usually signal the death of the colony, because the workers have no fertilized (female) larvae from which to raise worker bees or a replacement queen.

Though timing can vary, mating usually take place between the sixth and tenth day after the queen emerges. Egg laying usually begins 2 to 3 days after the queen returns to the beehive, but can start earlier than this.

Metamorphosis – Taking care of the Baby Queens



The “Gold Dust of Nature”



"If the earth were deprived of flowers, half its vitality would disappear."

La Polinización (The Polinization) Bees fly to flowers, and inside this incredible environment, they search for their food, pollen and nectar. The pollen from the flower is the genetic material of the plant. This pollen is the basic primal energy representing one of the most powerful urges in nature, that is, the urge to reproduce. Pollen truly is the "gold dust of nature". It is the culmination of the life force of plants. This life force, when unleashed through cross pollination largely done by the bees, is the beginning of much of the foods that insects, birds, other animals and humans have developed on.

Some people believe that the Bees and Flowers developed at the same moment in time because they needed each other. Indeed, perhaps the beauty in flowers was developed as a mechanism to attract pollinators and lure them in their direction. The bees diet is flower based collecting pollen and nectar from the flower. Much of our diet is flower based in the fruits, nuts, seeds and vegetables we eat that the bees pollinate. Flowers represent and symbolize the very definition of beauty on earth. The colors of every kind and fragrances of flowers cannot be reproduced. They can only be imitated. It is Nature and it is complex. That is where the bees go to work for their food.



"And now you ask in your heart,

How shall we distinguish that which is good in pleasure from what which is not good?

Go to your fields and your gardens, and you shall learn that it is a pleasure of the bee to gather honey of the flower,

But it is also the pleasure of the flower to yield its honey to the bee.

For the bee a flower is the fountain of life,
And to the flower a bee is a messenger of love,

And for both, bee and flower, the giving and the receiving of pleasure is a need and an ecstasy.

People...be in your pleasures like flowers and the bees."

– THE PROPHET, KAHILIL GIBRAN



Websites links:

www.ccpollen.com

www.BeeCulture.com

<http://www.ccpollen.com/the-importance-of-bees.html>

www.lydiatorea.com

<http://www.abejasdecolmenarejo.com/director.htm>

www.curandote.com

