



4th Quarter 2008 "Vista L.A."

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Summary:

BOXER CHAMPION DANIEL DE LEON PONCE

Standing at only 5'5 and 122 pounds, despite his size, 27-year-old boxer Daniel Ponce De Leon packs a punch that has knocked out nearly all of his opponents. Growing up in Mexico in extreme poverty and now living as a professional boxer in Huntington Park, Daniel learned early on how to fight like a champion in more ways than one. As an infant, he nearly died from health problems and poor access to healthcare, which claimed the lives of four of his brothers. Today, he's signed to Oscar De La Hoya's company, Golden Boy Promotions and was the reigning world champion in the WBO's Super Bantamweight division for three years. He lost his title to Puerto Rican Boxer Juan Manuel Lopez, but he's definitely one to watch.

COURTING LATINO MOVIE-GOERS

Due to overwhelming numbers of Latino movie-goers, more and more theatres are catering to the Latino community. Once considered the mecca of Mexican and Latin American cinema in the US, the Million Dollar Theater in downtown L.A. re-opened its doors this year and will continue its legacy of featuring shows and movies for the Latino community. Managing partner Robert Voskanian discusses the history behind the theatre and its re-opening. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa was at the launch of the theatre's re-opening and discusses the venue. Also catering to Latino movie enthusiasts is Maya Cinemas, the first chain of theatres with Latino-themed special programming for its guests. Maya Cinemas will be opening modern mega-plex movie theaters in predominantly Latino neighborhoods throughout the US. Veteran Film Producer and CEO of Maya Cinemas, Moctesuma Esparza talks about this new venture. Another theatre catering to this growing segment is Edwards Theatre. We talk to Mohamad Shakshir, Theater Manager at Edwards Theatre in Southgate.

HOMEBOY INDUSTRIES

Father Greg Boyle is the founder of "Homeboy Industries," a program created in 1988 to help at-risk or gang-involved youth redirect their lives. This year marks the organization's twenty-year anniversary and has even more to celebrate with a new 21,000 square foot facility just north of Downtown, L.A. The organization continues to offer hope for those who do not have it and to create a real sense of kinship in the community.

MEXICO CITY PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA'S "AMERICA TROPICAL"

The Mexico City Philharmonic Orchestra made its historic debut in Los Angeles with a performance at the legendary Walt Disney Concert Hall. The multimedia concert was inspired by the controversial mural "America Tropical" by the great Mexican muralist, David Alfaro Siqueiros.

Hosts: Danny Romero, Jovana Lara

Guests: Daniel Ponce De Leon, Boxer; Robert Voskanian, Managing Partner Million Dollar Theatre; Moctesuma Esparza, CEO Maya Cinemas; Mohamad Shakshir, Theater Manager Edwards Theatre Southgate; Father Greg Boyle, Founder "Homeboy Industries"; Candace Escalera, "Homeboy Industries"; Eric Joshua, "Homeboy Industries"; Luis Rivera, "Homeboy Industries"; Steven Loza, Judith Baca, Jose Luis Valenzuela, UCLA Professors; Enrique Diemecke, Conductor; Octavio Pescador, Mexico City/Los Angeles Sister City Committee Chairman.