



**3rd Quarter 2011
"VISTA L.A." MAGAZINE SHOW**

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SUMMARY:

The theme for this Vista L.A. was dance and classical music teachers and programs changing the lives of Latino children.

AN OPERA STAR INSPIRES HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Suzanna Guzman is a world-famous mezzo-soprano. She's been singing opera for more than 25 years, performing in the biggest opera houses in the world, including duets with the renowned Placido Domingo. As a Latina, she has not only helped change the face of opera, but her talents and efforts have also created opportunities for local kids. As the Director of Community Engagement at the "Los Angeles County High School for the Arts," known as LACHSA, Suzanna scouts inner-city schools and communities, like her hometown East Los Angeles, for undiscovered young talent. She encourages students to audition for the public Arts high school and once accepted, she fosters both their academic and artistic success. One of those students is Bianca Galicia, from East L.A., who has benefitted tremendously from this public arts high school LACHSA.

LACHSA, A PUBLIC ARTS HIGH SCHOOL

The Los Angeles County High School for the Arts, known as LACHSA, is a free public arts high school in East Los Angeles. This unique high school is located on the campus of California State University, Los Angeles. The high school offers both academic instruction and a variety of performing arts studies; dance, theatre, visual arts and music. LACHSA serves hundreds of culturally and socioeconomically diverse teens from more than 80 school districts in the county. Prospective students must audition for acceptance.

CLASSICAL MUSIC'S MAESTRA DE LEON DE VEGA

Vista L.A. spoke with noted symphony and opera conductor Sonia Marie De Leon de Vega. The Maestra is breaking ground for Latinas in the classical music world and bringing the music she loves to Latino families and communities throughout Los Angeles. She founded the Eagle Rock-based Santa Cecilia Orchestra and "Discovering Music" program, which exposes children to musical instruments and classical music. Michael Fernandez, Anais Almazan and Simone Luster are young children who were all inspired and impressed by Sonia's talent.

THE DEBBIE ALLEN DANCE ACADEMY

The Dance Academy is a studio in Los Angeles committed to the Arts to inspire and transform the lives of thousands of young people in L.A. through dance and theatre. Debbie Allen is the founder of this incredible theatre arts studio and she's also a famous Hollywood choreographer.

CHERYL CECCHETTO

Cheryl Cecchetto is the creative mastermind behind some of Hollywood's most exclusive events, like the Governors Ball. As the Founder and President of Sequoia Productions, Cheryl also gives local kids an opportunity to perform in many of her big events and they get to showcase their talents on stage.

LIFE LESSONS THROUGH DANCE

"The Gabriella Axelrad Foundation" was created more than ten years ago to start the 'Everybody Dance' program in the Pico Union district in Los Angeles. This dance program was created by Liza Bercovici, in memory of her daughter Gabriella Axelrad, a 13-year-old who loved to dance and aspired to be a teacher. Thousands of local children receive instruction in a variety of dance styles including tap, ballet, jazz, and modern dance at little or no cost. The organization's goal is to help each child it serves acquire self-discipline and self-confidence— and in doing so, increase each child's potential for a fulfilled, productive future. Maria Losano is a parent of a student that attends classes here and she's very pleased with this program. Amelia Gonzales and Nathalie Gomez are both students at "Everybody Dance."

A DANCE PROGRAM MAKING THE GRADE

The Wooden Floor is a top-notch dance program for kids in Santa Ana. Under the guidance of the Executive and Artistic Director Melanie Rios Glaser, the 'Wooden Floor' program offers ballet, jazz, tap, as well as provides academic and family services, such as tutoring and counseling. Their motto is, "From here, you can step anywhere" and once a student becomes a part of this low-cost dance program, the organization makes a 10-year commitment to them. During these 10 years, a top priority at The Wooden Floor is that students will drastically increase their self-confidence, improve their school grades and simultaneously enjoy the art of dance. Kathy Valeria and Mario Chavez are both students at "The Wooden Floor."

GUSTAVO DUDAMEL— "THE DUDE"— CREATES MUSICAL MAGIC FOR KIDS

"Youth Orchestra L.A.," also known as YOLA, is a music program for children in underserved neighborhoods of Los Angeles, primarily in Central and South L.A. Under the direction of L.A.'s Philharmonic Music Director Gustavo Dudamel, the mission of Youth Orchestra L.A. is to put instruments in the hands of children and give them the best quality instruction by creating new ensemble programs, all free of cost. YOLA hopes the orchestra experience will instill life-long values, like discipline and teamwork in the students. This classical music program was created by the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the incoming Music Director Gustavo Dudamel and also in partnerships with The Harmony Project and The EXPO Center. Deborah Borda, President of the L.A. Philharmonic, says the idea and collaboration is inspired by a similar youth orchestra in Venezuela called "El Sistema," which helped produce musical prodigy Dudamel.

HOSTS:

Jovana Lara; ABC7 Anchor.

GUESTS:

Suzanna Guzman; Opera star/Director of Community Engagement for LACHSA, Bianca Galicia; Student, Deborah Borda; President/L.A. Philharmonic, Nicholas Ruiz; Student/YOLA, Gustavo Dudamel; Music Director/L.A. Philharmonic, Griselda Salas; Student/YOLA, Steven Torres; Student/YOLA, Cheryl Cecchetto; Founder and President of Sequoia Productions, Maria Losano; parent, Amelia Gonzales; student/Everybody Dance, Melanie Rios Glaser; Artistic Director/The Wooden Floor, Kathy Valeria; Student/The Wooden Floor, Mario Chavez; Student/The Wooden Floor, Michael Fernandez; Student, Anais Almazan; Student, Simone Luster; Student, Sonia Marie De Leon de Vega; Conductor, Debbie Allen; Choreographer, Liza Bercovici; Founder/The Gabriella Axelrad Foundation.