

The colorful costumes and lively dances of Jalisco were enjoyed by all.



Celebrating Hispanic Heritage



tries, and Jalisco, a Mexican dance troupe with ties to the Mexican state of Guadalajara. All who attended enjoyed the per-

formances. Barker's goal is to find ways to increase the appreciation of diverse cultures and to establish a dialogue between the farm community and the farm workers who are a vital resource to the local economy and have a rich culture of their own. ♡

The influence of Hispanic cultures is being felt in many communities in the Bluegrass state and government agencies and civic organizations are developing ways to celebrate that heritage and offer activities and services. One county in northeast Kentucky recently hosted a Latino Festival, thanks to Robert Barker, director of ArtCroft Arts and Humanities Center, an artist retreat in Carlisle.

With the help of a small grant from the Kentucky Arts Council, Barker coordinated the one-day event for Hispanic farm workers in Nicholas County. Several groups offered ethnic specialties to eat, and communi-

ty service agencies with social and health information had tables. Jacobo Aragon of Simply Oaxaca, a

Company Members

Andres Cruz, founder
Polly Garcia,
artistic director
Manuel Banquet
Randi Ewing
Jackye Garrido

Enrique Gonzales
Monica De Nubbila
Andres Gomez
Sara Anderson
Juan Jose Galacia
Leonardo Calegare

Fatima Kochanowski
Gisella Astolfo
Barbara Moya
Victor Escobals
Hadden Owens

A *Thanksgiving Story*, Teatro Nuestro's second full-scale production, kept the festival audience enthralled. An all-volunteer multicultural organization, Teatro Nuestro, serves Kentucky's Latin American communities within their broader social settings by using theater arts to encourage artistic expression, demystify diverse social and cultural perceptions, provide a forum for addressing controversial issues, and promote educational and health-related concerns.



Jacobo Aragon, master of assemblies, and Robert Barker, festival organizer, crafted an afternoon of Hispanic cultural activities.



PHOTOS BY N. BRONNER