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WHAT: VIP Fiesta on First Friday for *La Pastorela*, A Shepherd's Story 2009

WHEN: Friday, December 4th starting at 5:30 p.m.

WHERE: Mexican American Cultural Center, 600 River Street, Austin, Texas.

ADMISSION: \$25 Tickets: www.austitx.com, 512-474 -8497 or 512-971-3255 or at the Door.

November 24, 2009 - Austin, Texas: The Austin Latino Theater Alliance (ALTA) invites you to VIP Fiesta on First Friday for *La Pastorela*, A Shepherd's Story 2009.

Join the Producers, Technicians and Cast Members of *La Pastorela 2009* in a fun filled Fiesta for our generous sponsors in 2009. *La Pastorela's* newest tradition of **First Friday Fiesta** will be held on **December 4th, 2009**. The engagement begins at 5:30 p.m. with drinks and delicious cuisine by some of Austin's finest establishments. Holiday cheer continues with games and prizes while the meet and greet with the production team of 2009 ensues. Then the final act is a seat for the musical comedy extravaganza that is *La Pastorela, A Shepherd's Story 2009* directed by Deanna Deolloz, Musical direction by Brian Ramos.

La Pastorela is a traditional Yuletide play that has been performed in Native American/Latino communities since the late 16th century when Spanish priests first introduced it to the Native people of this land. Revered in the Christmas tradition aspect, as the Latino counterpart to *The Nutcracker*, *La Pastorela* is a family-friendly, musical comedy must see during this Holiday Season. The play follows a group of singing shepherds on their journey to Bethlehem. On their quest, they encounter obstacles in the form of worldly temptations put before them by crafty devils but resist as guardian angels fight to keep the shepherds on their path. This production holds strong roots in Austin's own Latino community as its inaugural run was performed at the original Mexican American Cultural Center building in 1997.

La Pastorela 2009 production is the result of collaborative artistic efforts of many of Austin's finest actors, singers, musicians and theatrical designers. Founder of the female artist workshop series, Luna Femenina, Deanna Deolloz will direct the 2009 *La Pastorela*. The Musical Director for 2009 is Brian Ramos of Charanga Cakewalk and creator of Cine Las Americas' Beat Lab program. The dynamic cast includes many talented actors from the past eleven years including, Marita De La Torre reprising the role of Gila in 2001, Anisha Monay reprising her 2007 role of Pecado (Sin) and Diego Villarreal as Luzbel from the 2008 cast. New to the Pastorela stage are Frank Rios, Joy Scott, Nicole French, Miranda Kromer, Doug Costello and Natalina Ross in a gender-altered, hilarious portrayal of the "Hermit" to name a few.

For more information, please call 512-241-9799 or visit www.lapastorela.org.

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