



## **PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **TIJUANA BRINGS OPERA, ART & FINE FOODS TO THE STREETS DURING 5<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL STREET OPERA FESTIVAL**

*Tijuana's Mayor Jorge Ramos and the Opera de Tijuana launch this 5<sup>th</sup> Annual public celebration of fine music to the sounds of "Carmen", with the cuisine of some of Baja California's best restaurants, as part of the festivities for Tijuana's 119<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.*

**Tijuana, Baja California, July 5, 2008** – Thousands of people, of every age and background, and from both sides of the Tijuana-San Diego border region, will join the Opera de Tijuana (Tijuana Opera) and the Mayor of Tijuana, Jorge Ramos, in the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Tijuana Street Opera this Saturday, July 5<sup>th</sup>. This half-day celebration of music, the arts, and fine food from some of Tijuana's finest restaurants, will be held from 12 noon to midnight along several blocks of the historic Colonia Libertad neighborhood of Tijuana.

“This is truly an opportunity for adults and children from Tijuana, San Diego, and all of Southern California region to get a taste of both the arts and the delicious cuisine that Tijuana has to offer,” stated Ana Alicia Meneses, President of the Tijuana Convention and Visitors Bureau (COTUCO). “Too often, the good things that happen in Tijuana's safe neighborhoods near the

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border get overshadowed by bad news outside of the downtown center, so it's wonderful to have the Street Opera by the border crossing, and bringing music and energy as part of the festivals honoring Tijuana's 119<sup>th</sup> Anniversary."

Starting at 12:00 noon, along Quinta (5<sup>th</sup>) and Aquiles Serdan streets in Colonia Libertad (near the San Ysidro Border Crossing), the public can enjoy drawing, painting, and a "mask and hats workshop" for children. At 3:00pm, a parade, themed with the world-famous "Carmen" opera, will begin, followed at 4:00pm with the formal inauguration of the event and the evening's music and activities by Tijuana's Mayor, Jorge Ramos.

In addition to music, some of Baja California's finest restaurants, including Cien Años and El Olivo, will have food available for purchase to the public. Also, more than 150 artists, including singers, painters, photographers, dancers and more, will participate on stage and through exhibitions along the street. Free bus service is available from Hotel Pueblo Amigo, just a short walk from the San Ysidro border crossing, from 2:00pm until 12:00am midnight.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Street Opera is one of a series of events celebrating the 119<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Tijuana's founding in 1889. Additional upcoming events celebrating Tijuana's "birthday" include a free, public concert on July 11<sup>th</sup> by the Latin Grammy Award-winning singer, Alejandro Fernández; and a special concert at Tijuana's famous Jai Alai Forum by the Grammy Award-winning Julieta Venegas on July 19<sup>th</sup>.

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*For more information, contact the Tijuana Convention & Visitors Bureau toll free from the U.S. at 1-888-775-2417, or visit their website [www.TijuanaOnline.org](http://www.TijuanaOnline.org) . Also, contact Natalia Getman of Opera de Tijuana at [natasha.getman@gmail.com](mailto:natasha.getman@gmail.com)*