

Bilingual Foundation of the Arts
presents:
The Legend of La Salamandra
June 5, 6, and 7, 2016

Synopsis - A Stranger enters the town of the Gitanos. He is considered by many to be the Devil and is searching for a woman to be his wife. Specifically, he needs a woman who can resist fire; he seeks out Isabel, a dark beauty. The truth of the matter is that they are not strangers to each other. In the mythology of the play Isabel is a distant relative of Luzbel, though she does not know it yet. She is the "Salamander;" a mythological being who changes appearances in order to escape the revenge of the gods. At this moment she lives as Isabel in a remote Andalusian village. In Gitanos' legends, the only animal that can emerge whole from a fire is a salamander. Isabel is betrothed to Manuel, a decent hardworking man. She represents a rebellious woman looking for adventure and she is bored by Manuel. She is complaining that she wants to get out of the village. She asks the Stranger who he is, and he replies: "I am a gypsy from heaven looking for love." He promises her all kinds of adventures outside the village and finally she is ready to leave with him. She has fallen in love with the handsome Stranger. He offers to make her the "Princess of Fire", and ultimately transforms her into a Salamander and they both disappear through the frontal door which has been closed during the play and opens at the end, showing a fire. Isabel is wearing a "bata de cola", this is a beautiful flamenco dress with a long train which in this case symbolizes the salamander's tail. The play uses 10 songs and dance numbers. The furies side with the Devil while the Coro Rociero sings and urges Isabel to revoke the Devil and marry Manuel. The entire play takes place during the fiesta celebrating the baptism of a newborn. While the priest is performing the baptism, the Coro Rociero sings a salve, (a religious song to the Virgin) and Sevillanas, danced by different couples. The satirical Tanguillo follows and the baptism's party finishes with the Alegrias dance. Everyone leaves and Manuel is left alone once again. In the second part of the show he daydreams about Isabel and she appears to him (in his mind) and dances Soleares. This dance is one of the most beautiful and profound in the entire Flamenco repertoire.

Though the play is mainly a musical, there is room to explore some themes, folkloric and philosophical. The main premise of the play is that we live in a world where nobody takes responsibility for their own actions. Whatever we do wrong is always the fault of someone else: the teacher, the neighbor, the parents, the police, the boss, etc. "The Devil made me do It" The Devil is tired of being misunderstood and he himself blames God for his sad situation protesting that he did not commit an act of disobedience but of love. This is a fast moving play full of the colors and sounds of Andalusia, the land of Dionysus, wine, horses, and above all, intense joy

and intense life. At the end of the play we discover that the Salamander is the daughter of the Serpent who tempted Eve in the Garden of Eden.