

December 18, 2006

ESPAÑOL

- HOME
- CALENDAR
- NEWS
- COLUMNS
- CULTURE
- SPORTS
- EDUCATION
- REVIEWS
- FEATURE STORY
- RELIGION
- YOU & THE LAW
- AT HOME & ABROAD
- OFF THE CLOCK

- Contact us
- Advertising

LINKS

- Centro Latino
- Hispanic St Louis
- Dos Mundos
- KC Hispanic
- CNN Español
- Univision.com
- Latino USA
- Al final del tunel
- Pocho.com
- Ciberayllu
- El Andar
- El Confesionario
- La Hora Latina
- ¿Qué pasa?
- H.R watch
- HLAFA
- Latino Iowa
- Libreria cultural
- MO Multicultural Network
- CAMBIO DE COLORES 2004

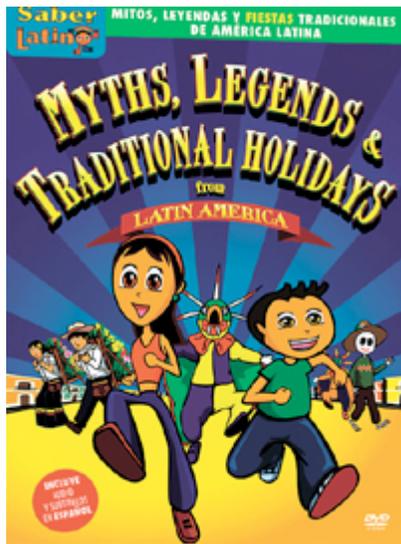
New DVD shares culture through cartoons

By Phil Owen

For some Latin American immigrants, immersion in another culture can make it difficult to pass on cultural traditions to their children, but a new educational DVD might make things a little easier.

Claudia Cazorla said that learning both languages as a second-generation Latin American is what inspired her to work as co-creator of the new DVD, "Myths, Legends & Traditional Holidays in Latin America," recently released by the New-York based company Saber Latino.

"A lot of the people here don't speak Spanish," Cazorla said, referring to second-generation children's experience in the U.S. "But they deserve to know their parents' and grandparents' stories."



The idea for the DVD was born when New York director and animator Pedro Ros saw that some traditional Latin American tales weren't being passed on to younger generations, Cazorla said.

Cazorla and Ros then wrote the scripts and did the voice-over of the main characters, cartoon brother and sister Ana and Andrés.

In the DVD, Ana, who is curious about her Latin American

Columns

- Editor's Note

Feature story

- Tributes
- A Hard Way Out
- Violence Against Women Act
- One woman's story

At Home & Abroad

- Cuban orphanage gives work new meaning

You & the Law

- Law changes paperwork needed at licensing offices

Off the Clock

- D'Rivera jazzes up Columbia music series

roots after she is assigned a project in school, brings along her younger brother, Andrés, while she tells stories from numerous Hispanic countries. Stories include Mexico's well-known holiday, "The Day of the Dead," to lesser-known tales about Cuba's "Guardians of the Treasure" and the Dominican Republic's "Las Ciguapas".

"A lot of Latin Americans assimilate and forget about their Latin culture," says Marusia Morales, who works with English Language Learning children in Columbia. "I don't know of very many (cultural education services) here, and it is very important to learn about your culture." Morales, who hasn't yet viewed the DVD, said she wasn't aware of other Spanish-language educational media for children, besides the translated version of "Sesame Street."

The Saber Latino DVD allows children to do more than watch. The DVD also contains an interactive trivia game and a bilingual glossary. The stories can be viewed in Spanish and English.

"The advantages of a tool like this are many," Morales said. "Children will be able to watch how exactly Latino countries celebrate their holidays instead of just reading or listening about it."

Although it's not always easy, families can make the choice to teach their children about their cultural background.

Maria Miranda, a Columbia resident who emigrated to the U.S. 13 years ago from Michoacán, Mexico, makes sure her children, ages 6 and 8, know about their Mexican heritage and language.

Miranda teaches her children all she can at home by describing Mexico's holidays and cooking the customary holiday food.

"I teach them about holidays like Los Reyes Magos and Day of the Dead," Miranda said. "I think the DVD will be good because I really want my children to learn about culture."

The company plans to publish a book to accompany the DVD as well as release a second DVD. For now, "Myths, Legends & Traditional Holidays from Latin America" is available for \$17.95 at the Web site www.saberlatino.com.