

(INTERESTS)

Raise the Curtain

WHETHER YOU'RE OUT ON THE TOWN FOR LIVE MUSIC, THEATER, FILM, OR DANCE, HERE ARE SOME OF THE STATE'S TOP VENUES.

ARTS AND ARCHITECTURE: Albuquerque's **KiMo Theater** opened in September 1927 as a model of Pueblo Deco style, a design that fused Native American and Art Deco influences. Today, the renovated theater screens films just as it did in its heyday and hosts a variety of regional and nationally touring dance and music productions. (505) 768-3522; kimotickets.com

DOWN-HOME HOT SPOT: An intimate venue, the **Buckhorn Saloon and Opera House** brings bluegrass, folk, and jazz acts to the quaint town of Pinos Altos, in southwestern New Mexico. With a steak-house-style menu, it makes for a memorable detour during a trip to Silver City. (575) 538-9911; buckhornsaloon-andoperahouse.com

HIGH DRAMA: In 1915, the curtain rose on the first play produced at the **Shuler Theater**, in Ratón. A center for the arts in northeastern New Mexico ever since, the Shuler continues to stage live theater productions. (575) 445-4746; shulertheater.com

LIVE ACTION: Built as a movie house in the 1930s, Artesia's **Ocotillo Theatre** began its second act in 2008, as a performing arts center. It now hosts some of the top events in southeastern New Mexico. (575) 746-4212; artesiaartscouncil.com

SHOW BIGNESS: At nearly 2,000 seats, **Popejoy Hall**, in the University of New Mexico Center for the Arts, is the largest indoor-stage

At a Glance
The mountain town of Red River is a hotbed of Southwestern Americana singer-songwriters, especially in summertime.

New Mexico has been home to such varied artists as Bo Diddley, a founding father of rock 'n' roll; Randy Travis, one of the most popular artists in the history of country music; and indie rockers The Shins and Beirut.

The prestigious Santa Fe Opera stages five productions each season, including a world premiere.

venue in the state. It hosts touring Broadway shows, symphony concerts, dance companies, and noteworthy speakers. (505) 277-3824; popejoypresents.com

SECOND RUN: Set just off the Santa Fe Plaza, the **Lenic Performing Arts Center** opened as a movie palace in 1931. In 2001, the Moorish and Spanish Renaissance-style theater was restored and became the most dynamic performance space in Santa Fe, presenting more than 200 events each year in dance, music, film, and theater. (505) 988-1234; lenic.org and ticketssantafe.org

TOP BILLING: New Mexico State University's 13,000-seat **Pan American Center** is home to Aggie basketball and volleyball games, and doubles as a venue for big-name acts such as Brad Paisley and Rascal Flatts. (575) 646-1420; panam.nmsu.edu

A New Spin

Like many New Mexico traditions, dance here steps gracefully between Native American, Anglo, and Hispanic influences. (For more on Native American rituals, see "Native America," p. 32) The **New Mexico Ballet Company** performs traditional works such as *The Nutcracker* in Albuquerque (505-292-4245; newmexicoballet.org). Also based in the Duke City, the **Keshet Dance Company** stages innovative performances several times a year (505-224-9808; keshetdance.org). **Aspen Santa Fe Ballet** performs during the summer in Santa Fe and tours the western states performing groundbreaking works choreographed by top professionals (505-925-7175;

aspensantafeballet.com). The ASFB has partnered in the past with the **Juan Siddi Flamenco Theatre Company** to perform shows at the Lenic. (505) 988-1234; juansiddiflamenco.com



Hoedown: Michael Hearne's Big Barn Dance in Taos in September.

ASK A LOCAL

MARISOL ENCINIAS IS A PRINCIPAL DANCER FOR **YJASTROS**, AN AMERICAN FLAMENCO REPERTORY COMPANY BASED IN ALBUQUERQUE. ENCINIAS AND HER BROTHER, JOAQUIN, SPUN OFF THE GROUP FROM THE **NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FLAMENCO** (NIFNM.ORG), WHICH HOSTS THE WEEKLONG **FESTIVAL FLAMENCO INTERNATIONAL DE ALBUQUERQUE** EACH JUNE.

WHAT MAKES PERFORMING ARTS IN NEW MEXICO DIFFERENT?

The sense of community we have here fosters a very high level of art.

WHAT'S UNIQUE ABOUT FLAMENCO IN NEW MEXICO?

Flamenco is intricate and complex, but it's also very simple. It's very human in its emotion. New

Mexico has a mystique; it feels very sacred or spiritual. Flamenco complements that. Perhaps that's why New Mexico flamenco is recognized around the world as unique. There's a new breed of flamenco that's from here. It has its own voice.

WHAT'S THE BEST WAY TO EXPERIENCE FLAMENCO?

In a *tablaó* (cabaret)

setting. It's in a small performance space with the holy trinity of flamenco—a guitarist, a singer, and a dancer. We perform in Santa Fe six nights a week in June and July at **El Farol** (505-983-9912; elfarolsf.com). It's a really intimate way to experience flamenco, and in my estimation that's the way people most enjoy seeing it.

TIM KELLER