

Germán De Patricio

### Cultural Activity on Flamenco

This Cultural Activity that I designed for my classes was just one more step in my apostolate of Flamenco Culture, making my little, humble contribution on spreading this movement everywhere.

In my class students view some sections of a DVD on the best living Flamenco guitar player ever, Paco de Lucía (a collaboration of TVE, AleaTV and ArteGEIE; script by Daniel Hernández and Jesús de Diego, 2002). This is an excellent documentary that mixes images of his concerts all over the world with images of his hometown (which happens to be my own hometown, too: Algeciras, Cádiz, Spain), oral testimonies by himself, friends and relatives from Algeciras, and images of his childhood and teenage years back in the 1970s. Not only does he play faster and better than any other human being, he also experiments new musical frontiers with Chick Corea, Al Di Meola, McLaughlin, or Santana: they improvised in the 1980s putting together jazz, blues, bossa and Flamenco.

I also use these images to show students my parents' house, since Paco de Lucía was born in my own street (Calle San Francisco). After viewing samples of this documentary, I stop and let students show their enthusiasm and ask many questions. Then they fill a brief quiz on the subject, providing the teacher with a great feedback on the matter. I am adding the quiz I use, at the end of this file. Although all my students' opinions have been always positive, some were really enthusiastic, and as they were asked "¿Qué te gustó más del reportaje sobre Paco de Lucía?" (What did you like best?) they wrote things like:

- "Me gustan las partes del reportaje cuando Paco de Lucía toca la guitarra. A mí me encanta la música que Paco de Lucía toca. Quiero comprar un disco compacto de su música."

- “Cuando él toca la guitarra, es mágico. También cuando está tocando la guitarra, dijo que su cuerpo y su guitarra son uno solo. Me gusta cómo sus dedos se mueven muy rápido.”

- “Me gustó oír la música de Paco de Lucía. ¡Cuando él toca la guitarra es increíble!”

- “Me gustó ver la calle natal de ambos, Paco de Lucía y Germán de Patricio.”

- “Pienso que es increíble porque no he visto una persona que puede tocar la guitarra como él.”

Obviously, my main goal is to provide them with information on a Cultural Treasure recognized and honoured by the United Nations and UNESCO, and which, while keeping its roots into the oldest mixture of European, African and Gipsy traditions, remains very much alive at the core of the Andalusian people and is for sure Spain’s most prized heritage and Cultural pride: Flamenco. The first time I watched this documentary, I realized that it would be very interesting for American students: production, script and images are simply fantastic. It is a very high quality edition. I designed a brief quiz for my students to complete during/after viewing it, so that the information can settle down better in their memories.

Students get several things out of this activity: first, they enjoy it very much; secondly, they learn about Flamenco music and culture –which I doubt they would do outside of my class; finally, many of them express interest in learning more about it after the class.

It is effective because they show a big interest in this everlasting tradition and as a teacher and as an Andalusian, I feel happy and satisfied when some students say: “Quiero comprar un disco compacto de su música.” (I want to buy a CD with this music)

Attached: THE QUIZZ

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Span \_\_\_\_\_ - Sect \_\_\_\_\_  
Actividad Cultural

Nombre \_\_\_\_\_  
Fecha \_\_\_\_\_  
Juramento \_\_\_\_\_

### **I. El flamenco.**

A. El flamenco es un tipo de música originaria de:

- a) Charlottesville, Virginia.
- b) Andalucía, España.
- c) Cancún, México.

B. El flamenco nace de la intersección histórica de:

- a) Gitanos, andaluces y árabes.
- b) Gitanos, italianos y portugueses.
- c) Andaluces, árabes y mexicanos.

### **II. Paco de Lucía, el mejor músico vivo de la Historia del Flamenco.**

A. Paco de lucía toca este instrumento:

- a) El piano.
- b) La guitarra.
- c) El banjo.

B. Paco de Lucía nació en:

- a) Richmond.
- b) Algeciras (Cádiz), España, ¡como mi profesor de español!
- c) México.

**B. ¿Qué te gustó más del reportaje sobre Paco de Lucía?**