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# WITTE MUSEUM

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## Story of the First Christmas Comes Alive at the Witte Museum

SAN ANTONIO— *Los Pastores*, the story of the shepherds' journey to see the Baby Jesus, is a traditional play from Spain adapted in Mexico and the American Southwest. Usually, the story of Christmas centers on Mary and Joseph, and no room at the inn, but *Los Pastores* focuses on the shepherd's story, which is as equally as enthralling. See the Guadalupe Players reenact this story and face cold, hunger and temptations from the devils at the **Witte Museum** at **1 p.m. on Sunday, December 7**.

*Los Pastores* is always performed in Spanish, but the tale of good triumphing over evil is understood in any language. "The Shepherd's Play is the often-touching, often-humorous story of the shepherds' journey to see the Baby Jesus," said Michael Haynes, curator at the Witte. "The devils and shepherds dialogue and sing songs to tell this classic story of good and evil." Many different groups have performed this play in San Antonio since the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

One such group that has been performing this play for years is the Guadalupe Players from Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in San Antonio. The church has been reenacting the play since 1939 in churches, backyards and at Mission San Jose. Many of the performers follow in the footsteps of their parents and grandparents in filling the roles of devils and shepherds. "The performers all do this out of religious faith and a belief in the importance of continuing a cultural tradition," Haynes added.

The Witte Museum sponsored these performances in 1924 and throughout the 1930s, and welcomed back this tradition in 1994 after an absence of almost 60 years.

Hands-on activities, hot chocolate and Christmas cookies accompany this hour-long performance. *Los Pastores* is included with museum admission. For more information call 210.357.1900 or visit

[www.wittemuseum.org](http://www.wittemuseum.org).

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