



**Dia de Los Muertos**

**Day of the Dead**

Fannin Musical Productions

### **Overview**

*Dia de Los Muertos* or *The Day of the Dead* in English, is a show which draws from the rich traditions of a beloved Mexican holiday. Combining elements of Christianity and native Mesoamerican beliefs, it is a time for remembrance and celebration of the beloved departed. Our show interweaves the musical traditions of Mexico with the instantly recognizable visual elements of the holiday to create an audio-visual experience that your students, audience, and judges will not soon forget.

## Set and Prop Design



The set design for *Day of the Dead* immediately establishes the place and mood of the show before the first note has been played. Oversized props tell your story to every audience member, even in the back row!







The main props used to set the stage are oversized *calaveras*, the iconic ‘sugar skulls’ that are known worldwide. Combining elements of a backdrop and a raised stage, these multi use props allow for unique staging opportunities. Their exact number can be tailored to suit the unique size and budgetary needs of your ensemble. Building blueprints for these props are available.





The back of each *calavera* features stairs, a raised platform, and curtain behind the ‘eyes’ through which performs may pass for unique entrances in and out of the spotlight.

Rounding out the set design are optional front screens which provide a convenient staging area for color guard equipment changes. A traditional Mesoamerican *xicalcolihqui* pattern, found in both Maya and Aztec architecture, is warmly lit by the candles left in remembrance of the dead.





### Simplified Prop Option



As a simplified props option, simple backdrops could be used to create a very similar effect. Although the staging options are not as unique as with the above calavera props, many of the same effects could be approximated at a lower cost. These backdrop designs are compatible with the standard FCMED3 frames available from our partners at Corps Design.





## COLOR GUARD CONCEPT SKETCH

ONE-PIECE BODY SUIT WITH  
APPLIQUE 'BONES' & 'HEART',  
RUFFLE DETAILS, & OPTIONAL  
REMOVABLE HALF SKIRT

WARM COLORS CARRIED OVER  
FROM FLAG SILKS, PROPS--  
BRIGHT PURPLES TAKEN FROM  
TRADITIONAL MARIGOLDS  
USED ON THE HOLIDAY

USE MASKS OR MAKEUP  
TO COMPLETE SKELETON  
APPEARANCE ON FACE



POWERED BY



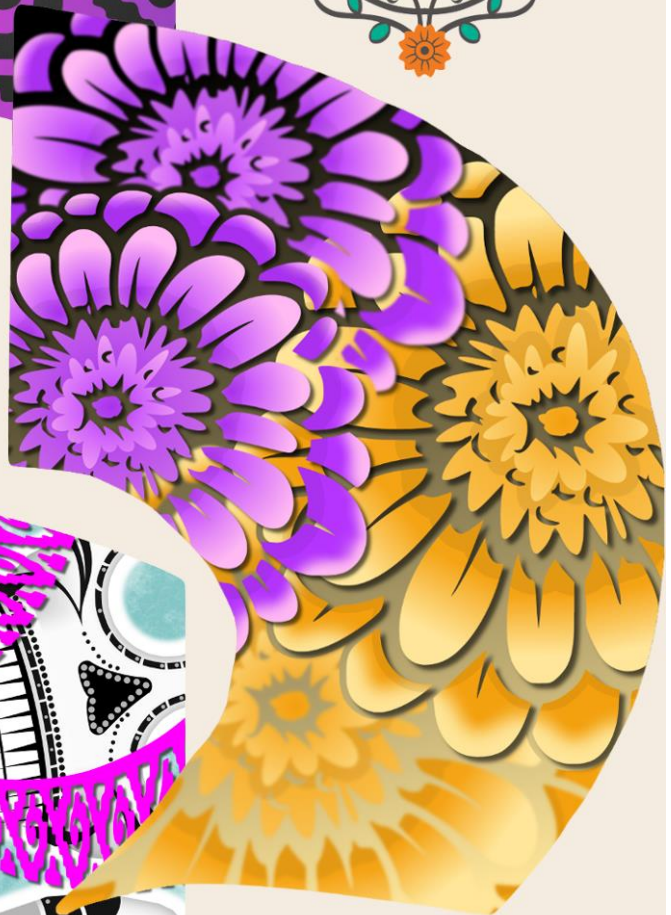




OPENER



3 SILKS UNIFIED BY  
MESOAMERICAN  
PATTERN, SKULL &  
MARI GOLD IMAGERY,  
CONNECT TO EACH  
OTHER, COSTUMES,  
& PROPS



CLOSER

BALLAD OVERSIZED  
SWING FLAG

**FMP**  
FANNIN MUSICAL  
PRODUCTIONS

POWERED BY  
**BAND SHOPPE**



The guard design for *Day of the Dead* completes the process of visually transporting the viewer. Recurring motifs of the *xicalcolihqui* pattern, the sugar skull, and the traditional marigold flowers associated with holiday tie the program together in color, pattern, and texture for a coherent, unified show design effect judges will immediately reward.



## Movement 1 Effects



The beginning of the show opens with the ensemble gathered around the *calavera* prop, drawing the eye to them with body choreography just in time for the guard to emerge from within. The mysterious nature of the music is perfectly complemented by the unexpected entrance of the masked guard.





As the hornline begins to layer in musically, beginning with the woodwinds, the guard visually echoes this by layering in the first flag silk, a vibrant pink-purple inspired by the marigolds and a bold skull echoing the props.

As more musicians join the phrase, and the entire guard translates onto equipment, the show arrives at its first impact point for a visual, musical hit which pulls the audience in.







After the opening impact, a transitional segment using the sounds of the traditional pan flute provides an intriguing counterpoint. The hornline is lead through a choreography segment by one guard member at a prop, allowing some of the guard to transition onto rifle, if desired.

Using two types of guard equipment, if available, allows the visual ensemble to complement the next musical idea. First, the rifles and woodwinds make a statement...







...which is echoed in by the brass and remaining flags.

The musical ideas from here interweave, eventually becoming full-ensemble and driving to the final impact of the movement, full bore audio-visual hit featuring two types of guard equipment.





## Movement 2 Effects



Movement 2, the dance-like ballad section of the program, opens with a pit percussion interlude that allows for a release of musical tension, and a visual transition to prepare for the next effect. While some guard begin to translate to new equipment, the rest join the hornline in drawing the eye to the forwardmost *calavera* prop.

Here, a featured soloist steps through the 'eye' of the skull and onto the stage. Sketched here as a flute, allow FMP to customize your arrangement to highlight one of your most outstanding performers.







As the rest of the hornline restages for their musical entrance, the soloist carries the melodic idea as the guard introduces the ballad silk: an oversized wing flag featuring the vibrant traditional marigold flowers of the Day of the Dead celebration.

While the woodwinds join into the melodic idea, selected brass members and color guard pair off to dance together to the traditional Spanish guitar sounds in the pit book.







Finally, the full musical ensemble comes together for a glorious impact moment not soon to be forgotten. The color guard, now fully translated onto the oversized marigold silks, fills the field with vibrant color for a ‘must applaud’ moment.

The movement comes to an end with the soloist again taking over the melody, covering the musical and visual restaging for Movement 3.





### Movement 3 Effects



After the peaceful, dance-like ballad, Movement 3 of *Dia de Los Muertos* is a pure buildup of celebratory energy. Once again, the woodwinds are the first members of the hornline to introduce the melodic idea, and the guard complements with a vibrant silk of bright colors, overflowing with *calaveras*.

As the rest of the hornline joins in, their musical energy is reinforced by driving drill that uses contrary motion to develop excitement.







The joyful, celebratory nature of the program builds to a head as several guard members climb onto the calavera props, adding a layer of verticality to the drill, and the musical ensemble comes together for a final, majestic statement. The audience is left filled with excitement by the incredible journey of music, color, and intrigue they have just completed.



*Fin.*

Created with Pyware 3D®

