

A Night To Remember: CAMP Participates in Night of Community

By Staff Writer

One of the missions of the College Assistance Migrant Program at St. Edward's is to be on the lookout for new experiences for its students. This year, CAMP has been fortunate to join the ranks of other Central Texas non-profit organizations who benefit from a unique program coordinated by Ballet Austin. The *Night of Community* program allows organizations to join the Ballet Austin company for its final dress rehearsal of selected productions throughout the year. This program illustrates how non-profit agencies, volunteers, the business community and the arts can partner to benefit the entire Austin community.

Through this program, CAMP students have been able to enjoy the beauty of Ballet Austin's 2008-2009 season. Starting with the inaugural season opener in November — *An Evening of Three Works* — students also attended final dress re-



The Joe R. and Teresa Lozano Long Center for the Performing Arts in downtown Austin, the site of the Night of Community Program Ballet Austin performances.

hearsals of *The Nutcracker* and *Hamlet*.

NOC provided many CAMPers with their first cultural experience. This program not only provided exposure to the ballet, but also to Austin's new performing arts center — the Joe R. and Teresa Lozano Long Center for the Performing

Arts. One of the additional benefits of the NOC program has been the opportunity for freshmen CAMP students to get to know upperclass CAMP students. Tickets for the ballet productions were made available to all currently enrolled CAMP students. Limited tickets have made this a popular excursion for the students. By the time the February production of *Hamlet* rolled around, all tickets were being quickly snapped up by the new eager patrons of the arts. Each performance presented students with the beauty of dance, music and the experience of a community event. Some students even earned credit for their Cultural Foundation course by attending the ballet.

"*Hamlet* was a very elegant experience," says Junior Andres Madrid. "The performance was filled with surprises, like Ophelia's death scene which included water on stage. It was also nice to spend time with the freshman students who I don't normally see". It is through programs like NOC that CAMP students are able to be involved in outside activities.

While NOC is the latest cultural program for the CAMP students, it joins other similar events such as *Dies y Seis de Septiembre*, *Dia de los Muertos*, museum and historical landmark visits. These activities go beyond classroom teachings in helping CAMPers experience a variety of cultural events.

For further information on the Night of Community Program visit www.balletaustin.org/education/nightofcommunity.php



(Left to Right) Andres Madrid, CAMP '06, Jennifer Gonzalez, CAMP '08, Jeannette Rodriguez, CAMP '08, Flor Rivera, CAMP '08, Jessica Gonzalez, CAMP '08, Maria Rodriguez, CAMP '08, Rachel McClung, and Jorge Gonzalez, CAMP '06 gather during intermission.

"Our experiences at the ballet were unforgettable. We would not trade them for anything."