

# Spanish dancers step into Holmdel

By **JENNIFER BRADSHAW**  
Staff Writer

**HOLMDEL** — As a kick-off celebration of Hispanic Heritage month, students from both the middle and high schools were treated on Sept. 15 to a performance of Spanish dance by the Alborada Spanish Dance Theater.

The Brick-based dance com-

pany led the students through four different types of Spanish dance, including Regional, Escuela Bolera, Classical and Flamenco, accompanied by live singing, guitar playing and percussion, comprised of hand claps and the rhythmic stomping of feet.

Spanish teacher Jacqueline Peters said the performance was brought to the school

through a \$1,300 grant provided by the Holmdel Foundation, a group that supports township schools.

"I had seen them (Alborada) a few years ago, and it was a dream to have them come to our school," Peters said, of finding the dancers.

Peters said that the rest of the

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Staff photo by Jennifer Bradshaw

**Lisa Botalico dances while Gisele Assi sings and claps during the Alborada Spanish Dance Theater performance at Holmdel High School.**

## Spanish

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month would feature discussions and fiestas in Spanish classes, but the performance was the culminating event to mark the month.

During the morning performance for the high schoolers, the company demonstrated the difference between male and female dance moves, the purpose of the hand claps, and the cultural influences of each dance. At the end of the performance, they welcomed six students on stage, to participate in a dance.

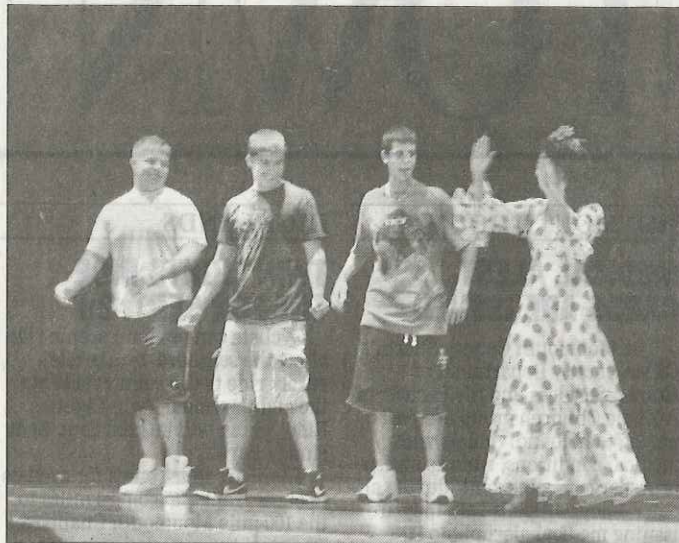
"They were a little sleepy, but they came to life after the second (dance)," said guitarist Carlos Revollar, of the audience.

Dancer Ricardo Santiago said the troupe is used to and enjoys performing for young people, and participates in a lot of arts education programs.

"Teenagers are fun," added vocalist and dancer Gisele Assi.

Some of the students said they enjoyed the performance, and had not seen live Spanish dance before.

"It's interesting how they



**Holmdel High School sophomores Joe Diskop, Mike Grillo and Matt Micalia join Alborada performer Lisa Botalico for a dance.**

don't use picks," said senior Autumn Rauchwerk 17, of Revollar's finger work. "And I like how they explained (their) shoes."

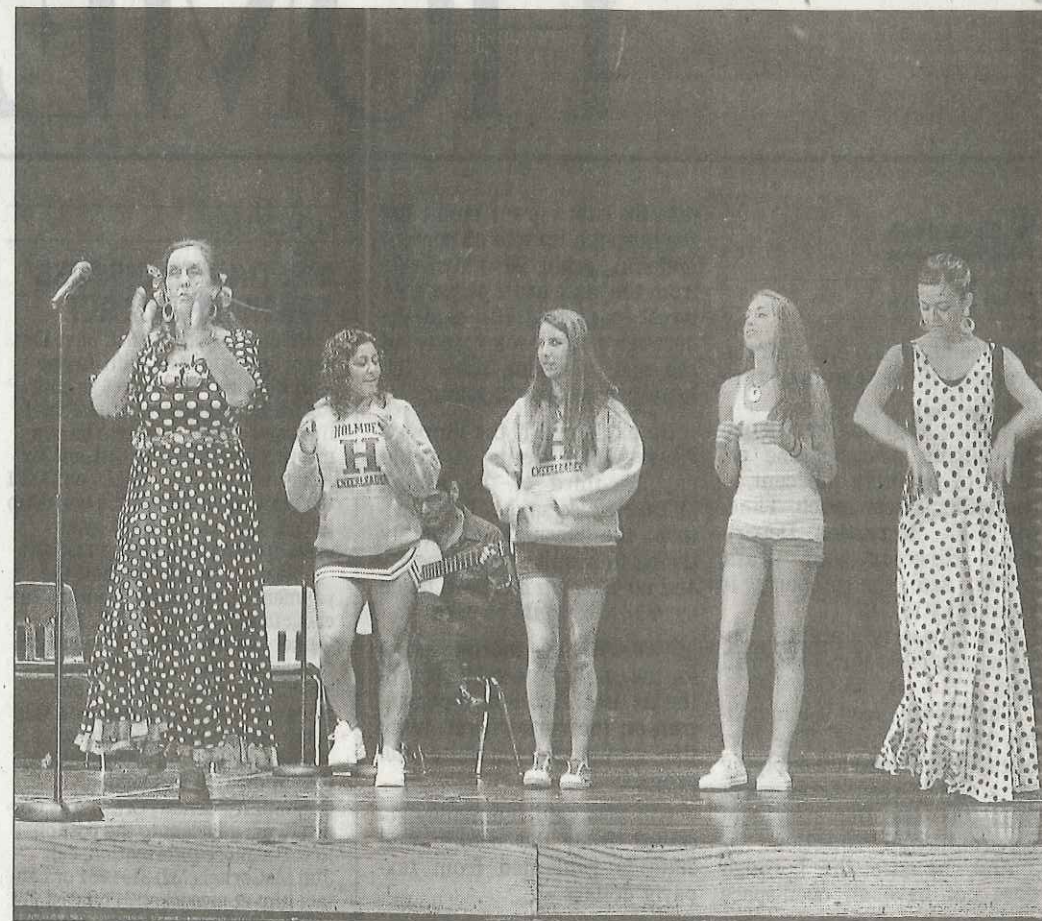
"I thought it was interesting ... we learned a little (about Spanish dance) last year," said senior Nisha Dhalikar, 17.

Revollar and Santiago said that the auditorium stage itself played a role in the show, producing a good sound during the dances; each school lends itself differently to each performance.

Santiago said that older schools usually have older wood, and therefore produce a better sound from the stomping of feet. Newer schools sometimes have a layer of cement over the wood, which doesn't lend itself quite as well.

"Cement is no good for the knees," Revollar said. "No matter how hard you hit, it's all the same volume."

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Staff photos by Jennifer Bradshaw

**Eva Lucena, far left, and Crystina Cardenas, far right, of the Alborada Spanish Dance Theater, lead Holmdel High School sophomores (from left) Tiffany Coscia, Shannon McDermott and Julia Mauritzen in Spanish dance during a performance at Holmdel High School.**