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MEDIA CONTACT:

Olivia Chacón

512.850.1115

oliviachaconflamenco@gmail.com

**TEXAS FLAMENCO ENSEMBLE PUTS THE SPOTLIGHT ON IMMIGRATION
IN THEIR NEWEST WORK, *DESPLAZADOS***

AUSTIN — Donald Trump offends millions with his derogatory remarks on Mexican immigrants. Syrian refugees flood European borders. Immigration remains a divisive issue that fills headlines around the world. For Austin-based dance company A'lante Flamenco, "...it's not a controversial issue, its just the story of our lives," says Isai Chacón, the group's Music Director. That's why he and Artistic Director Olivia Chacón decided to create a flamenco production exploring their own experiences with displacement due to immigration and gentrification. A'lante Flamenco presents *Desplazados* at San Antonio's Flamenco Fest at the Guadalupe Theater on October 11. The company is donating a portion of the proceeds from the show to a charity supporting refugee aid, to be chosen by the audience.

"Our ensemble is made up of Cuban refugees, Mexican and Spanish immigrants, and people from all over Texas and California who ended up in Austin for any number of different reasons," says Chacón. "The piece is called *Desplazados*, which is Spanish for 'displaced.' The music and choreography are informed by the experiences of our own artists: struggles with the red tape of applying for citizenship, the breakup of families, rising housing costs in cities, feelings of alienation or belonging in a new culture."

"In many ways, flamenco's history mirrors America's own love/hate relationship with immigration. The art form was created by migrating populations—Muslim, Jewish, Gypsy and Spanish—bringing their own cultural identities and conflicts to the mix. Today flamenco is appreciated globally, but it used to be the expression of the marginalized underclass," says Chacón. "We can see a reflection of the kind of events that formed flamenco taking place right now in the migrant crisis in the Middle East and Europe."

Despite their disparate origins, A'lante's 5 musicians and 5 dancers are drawn together by their love of this Spanish art form. The traditional structures of the guitar, song, and dance provide a framework on which the performers elaborate and draw inspiration, while striving to communicate their own experiences of displacement. In *Desplazados*, audiences will hear them tell their stories in their own words, as well as through their art.

A'lante Flamenco presents *Desplazados* at 3pm on October 11 at the Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center in San Antonio as part of San Antonio Flamenco Fest. Tickets are available at www.alanteflamenco.com/tickets.

A'lante Flamenco was formed in Austin in 2011. They have impressed audiences and critics alike with their imaginative "flamenco theater" productions, including their adaptation of *The Red Shoes* in 2012 and 2014's *Prophecies*. They were chosen as "Best Dance Ensemble" by the Austin Critics' Table in both 2014 and 2015. For more information on the company, see www.alanteflamenco.com.