

For Alexander, Ethan, Oliver & Emilio



The Life of La vida de Evelyn

Born November 18, 1958, Evelyn Cisneros was the first Mexican-American prima ballerina in the United States. In an effort to help eight-year-old Evelyn overcome her shyness, her mother signed her up for ballet classes. Evelyn slowly realized that dance was a form of expression; she could perform the work her mouth struggled to express. In 1974, she received a summer scholarship to the School of Ballet, followed by an internship with the San Francisco Ballet in 1976. She officially joined the San Francisco Ballet in 1979 where she danced for 23 years. In September 2020, the Frederick Quinney Lawson Ballet West Academy appointed Evelyn as Director. To this day, Evelyn Cisneros continues to take center stage in our hearts.

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The Life of La vida de Evelyn

A
bilingual
picture book
biography

Art by
Citlali Reyes



By
Patty Rodriguez
&
Ariana Stein

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Evelyn was very shy as a young girl. Her mom thought ballet would help overcome her shyness, so she enrolled her in dance classes.

ele

Evelyn era una joven muy tímida. Su mamá pensó que el ballet le ayudaría con su timidez, así que la inscribió en clases de baile.



Many times, Evelyn felt excluded because of the color of her skin. Even though she felt rejected, dancing always made her world much happier.

e

Muchas veces Evelyn se sintió excluida por el color de su piel. Aunque se sentía rechazada, el baile siempre hizo su mundo más feliz.



Her perseverance and dedication allowed her
to earn a scholarship to one
of the best ballet schools in the country.

ele

Su perseverancia y dedicación le permitieron
obtener una beca para una
de las mejores escuelas de ballet en el país.



In 1982, she performed for the entire country
live from the White House.

elle

En 1982, bailó para todo el país
en vivo desde la Casa Blanca.

