

# THE SANTA FE NEW MEXICAN

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For The New Mexican



Clyde Mueller/The New Mexican

**A video projection shows an actor portraying a historic figure in the second-story window of the Catron Block Building on the Plaza.**

## SANTA FE 400TH

# GHOST STORIES

*Apparitions from city's past to make final video appearances on Plaza*

Over the past two months, historical Santa Fe characters — some beloved, others infamous, some well-known, others not even a footnote in the history books — have nightly joined the evening milieu of the Santa Fe Plaza.

Tonight will be the final appearance of the collection of characters, who through the magic of multiple-media video have appeared in the second-floor windows of the Catron Block Building telling their stories that chronicle 400 years of Santa Fe history.

The production, known as *Almas de la Plaza Santa Fe*, began as a project of Los Angeles media artist Robert Drummond in 2009. With the support of the New Mexico Film Office and funding from the Judith McBean Foundation, Drummond brought the project to life with the help of production students from the Institute of American Indian Arts, New Mexico Highlands University and the College of Santa Fe, as well as local actors and storytellers.

The characters include a cowboy poet, an Indian runner, one of the first business women on the Plaza, conquistadors, priests and basket weavers, and they offer their accounts of their arrival and life in Santa Fe appearing as apparitions then disappearing from the windows. Below, some passers-by such as James Elder, and Lynley and Wayne Russek of Thames, New Zealand, paused to watch for a while then move on. "It's a unique concept," said Lynley Russek, a teacher. "You can stop for a moment or stay for a long time."

One of the few who moved from window to window on a recent night, listening to the characters as they appeared and then vanished, was Deborah Boldt, a filmmaker. "This captures the corners of our history," Boldt said. "Some of the (characters) were well-known, others obscure and fascinating."

Boldt heard Albert Cata tell his allegories of the old coyote and the rabbit; the cowboy poet reflecting on the possibility of reincarnation. Another apparition described Santa Fe as a place "where only the brave or the criminal come."