



# Clovis Rodeo Association

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**TICKET OFFICE ONLY: 559-299-5203**

## **Award Winning Trick Roper Tomas Gracilazo to Entertain Fans at Clovis Rodeo** **96<sup>th</sup> Annual Clovis Rodeo, April 22-25, 2010**

**(Clovis, California):** The Charro, Tomas Gracilazo will entertain rodeo fans at the 96<sup>th</sup> Annual Clovis Rodeo, April 22-25. Entertainer and barrelman Crash Cooper and bullfighters, Eric Layton and Tim O'Conner, will join Gracilazo in the arena.

**Tomas Gracilazo's** dedication, skill and proficiency as an accomplished horseman are combined with his expertise as a rope artist for a show that is sure to please Clovis Rodeo fans. Tomas is considered one of the finest Charros presenting La Charreia today. He has performed throughout Europe, Canada, the U.S. and Mexico. Often a featured performer in Wild West shows he has performed for Disney Productions in Paris, Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show in Holland and Germany and toured with the Will Rogers Follies. Having performed for the President of the United States, heads of state, the President of Mexico and at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC it is amazing that he still finds the time to appear internationally in Charro competitions.

**Crash Cooper** will join Gracilazo at the 96<sup>th</sup> Clovis Rodeo as the entertaining and comical barrelman. Legend says when Crash Cooper steps into the arena, rodeo fans should be prepared for anything. Known for his athleticism and for involving rodeo cowboys in his crowd-pleasing stunts he has become a crowd favorite amongst rodeo fans of all ages. A four time winner of Canada's Entertainer of the Year, he is also the act of choice for many rodeos in the United States. Cooper hails from Seniac, Saskatchewan and majored in fine arts at Red Deer College in Alberta, Canada. The self-taught western artist finds inspiration for his drawings, graphite, pen or watercolor pieces and tongue-in-cheek cartoons in his ranching roots.

A bullfighter has one of the toughest jobs in rodeo – he must protect the cowboy so he can ride again another day. Bullfighters **Eric Layton and Tim O'Conner** will join Crash Cooper in the arena to keep the cowboys safe. Often some of the most entertaining men of the rodeo, the bullfighters also have one of the most dangerous jobs, that of protecting the rodeo cowboy who places his well being in their hands. The bullfighter makes sure the rider exits the arena after his ride without injury from the livestock.

The PBR Bull Riding touring Pro-Division opens the 96<sup>th</sup> Clovis Rodeo on April 22 followed by three days of PRCA Rodeo action April 23-25, 2010. Friday night rodeo action will be followed by a concert for rodeo fans by rising country superstar, Jake Owen. Two days of rodeo activities continue through the weekend, along with the popular Clovis Rodeo parade on Saturday, April 24. Tickets are available by calling 559-299-5203 or visiting [www.clovisrodeo.com](http://www.clovisrodeo.com). Ticket office hours are Monday through Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

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*The all-volunteer, non-profit Clovis Rodeo Association (CRA) has 580 members. Approximately \$125,000 in proceeds from the Clovis Rodeo and related events coordinated by CRA members benefit local charities annually, including 4-H, FFA, Clovis Schools, Clovis Police Activities League, California High School Rodeo Foundation, Make-A-Wish Foundation, Break the Barriers, Boy Scouts of America, Clovis Community Hospital and the Central California Blood Center.*

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