Kuratsa Dance

WARAY, SAMAR ISLAND PROVINCE, CENTRAL PHILIPPINES. Kuratsa is the most popular Waray traditional dance in Eastern Visayas. C. Andin and B.E.S Villaruz (1994) wrote that it is “an indigenized version of the la cucaracha (the cockroach), a Mexican courtship dance … believed to have been introduced by Mexican soldiers and traders when Mexico had administrative and trade relations with the Philippines” (p. 85). A close study of the dance, however, reveals that it does not exhibit any trace of the pesky roach nor of the impassioned Mexican in movement, style or rhythm. Waray folks mention nothing about a foreign origin. They say that the kuratsa depicts the flirtatious movements of the rooster and the hen in courtship.

Through a rain of paper money confetti, a couple go through the formal paces of the kuratsa.