

23|24 SEASON

 UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

presents

## BALLET HISPÁNICO

THURS, SEPT 28, 7:30 pm  
Fine Arts Theatre

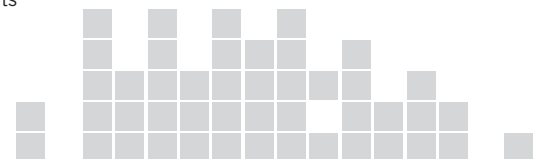


Ben McKeown

Supported by  
**LAURA W. CARTER**

Please silence all mobile phones and electronic devices. Photography, video and audio recording, and texting are prohibited during the performance.

#ugapresents



## PROGRAM

### ***NEW SLEEP (DUET)***

World Premiere: January 30, 1987, San Francisco Ballet,  
War Memorial Opera House, San Francisco

#### **CREDITS**

**Choreography by** William Forsythe

**Staged by** Noah Gelber

**Music by** Thom Willems

**Stage Design, Lighting, and Costume Design by** William Forsythe

#### **CAST**

Fatima Andere and Antonio Cangiano

### ***LÍNEA RECTA***

World Premiere: November 18, 2016 at the Apollo Theater

**Choreography by** Annabelle Lopez Ochoa

**Music by** Eric Vaarzon Morel

**Costume Design by** Danielle Truss

**Lighting Design by** Michael Mazzola

#### **CAST**

Fatima Andere, Leonardo Brito, Antonio Cangiano, Amanda del Valle, Cori Lewis,  
Dylan Dias McIntyre, Omar Rivéra, and Isabel Robles

**Opening:** Amanda del Valle with Omar Rivéra, Dylan Dias McIntyre,  
Leonardo Brito, and Antonio Cangiano

**Trio:** Fatima Andere with Antonio Cangiano and Omar Rivéra

**Scorpion Dance:** Fatima Andere, Amanda del Valle, Cori Lewis, and Isabel Robles

**Men's Dance:** Leonardo Brito, Antonio Cangiano, Dylan Dias McIntyre,  
and Omar Rivéra

**Finale:** All

## INTERMISSION

#### **CREDITS**

### ***Sor Juana***

World Premiere: June 1, 2023 at New York City Center

**Choreography by** Michelle Manzanales

**Dramaturg** Kiri Avelar

**Music by** Noel Akchote, Juana Ines de la Cruz, Juan García de Céspedes,  
Rafael Krux, Maria Jose Llergo, Ofelia Medina, Gaspar Sanz, and Estas Tonne

**Costume Design by** Sam Ratelle

**Lighting Design by** Jojo A. Franjoine

#### **CAST**

Amir Baldwin, Leonardo Brito, Antonio Cangiano, Amanda del Valle, Ana Estrada,  
Cori Lewis, Dylan Dias McIntyre, Omar Rivéra, Isabel Robles, and Isabella Vergara

#### **Featured Soloist**

Amanda del Valle

#### **Featured Duet**

Amanda del Valle and Cori Lewis

## INTERMISSION

### ***CLUB HAVANA***

World Premiere: December 7, 2000, at The Joyce Theater

#### **CREDITS**

**Choreography by** Pedro Ruiz

**Music by** Israel Lopez, Rubén Gonzales, A.K. Salim, Perez Prado and  
Francisco Repilado

**Costume Design by** Emilio Sosa

**Costume Construction by** Ghabriello Negrón

**Lighting Design by** Donald Holder

#### **CAST**

Fatima Andere, Amir Baldwin, Antonio Cangiano, Amanda del Valle, Daryn Diaz,  
Paulo Hernandez- Farella, Cori Lewis, Dylan Dias McIntyre, Omar Rivéra,  
and Isabel Robles

#### **Opening**

Antonio Cangiano, Daryn Diaz, and Omar Rivéra with the Company

#### **Caballo**

Amanda del Valle and Paulo Hernandez-Farella, Cori Lewis and Amir Baldwin,  
Isabel Robles and Dylan Dias McIntyre

#### **Cha Cha Cha**

Fatima Andere with Antonio Cangiano and Omar Rivéra

#### **Romanza**

Full Cast

#### **Rumba, Conga**

Full Cast

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## BALLET HISPÁNICO

#### **FOUNDER**

Tina Ramirez

#### **ARTISTIC DIRECTOR AND CEO**

Eduardo Vilaro

#### **ARTISTIC ASSOCIATE & REHEARSAL DIRECTOR**

Johan Rivera

### THE COMPANY

Fatima Andere, Amir Baldwin, Leonardo Brito, Antonio Cangiano, Amanda del Valle, Daryn Diaz, Ana Estrada, Paulo Hernandez-Farella, Cori Lewis, Dylan Dias McIntyre, Adam Morales, Amanda Ostuni, Omar Rivéra, Isabel Robles, and Isabella Vergara

### COMPANY MANAGER

Lauren Evans

### PRODUCTION DIRECTOR

Adrian White

### LIGHTING SUPERVISOR

Caitlin Brown

### STAGE MANAGER

Morgan Lemos

### DIRECTOR OF COSTUMES

Regina Rizzo

### AUDIO SUPERVISOR

Brian McCorkle

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## ABOUT THE COMPANY

Ballet Hispánico is the largest Latinx/Latine/Hispanic cultural organization in the United States and one of America's Cultural Treasures. Ballet Hispánico's three main programs, the Company, School of Dance, and Community Arts Partnerships bring communities together to celebrate the multifaceted Hispanic diasporas. Ballet Hispánico's New York City headquarters provide the physical home and cultural heart for Latinx dance in the United States. It is a space that initiates new inclusive cultural conversations and explores the intersectionality of Latine cultures. No matter their background or identity—Latine, Latinx, Hispanic—Ballet Hispánico welcomes and serves all, breaking stereotypes and celebrating the beauty and diversity of Hispanic cultures through dance.

Dance visionary and National Medal of Arts recipient Tina Ramirez founded Ballet Hispánico in 1970, at the height of the post-war civil rights movements. From its inception Ballet Hispánico focused on providing a haven for Black and Brown families seeking place and artistic sanctuary. By creating the space for Hispanic dance and dancers to flourish, Ballet Hispánico uplifted marginalized artists and youth, which combined with the training, cultural pride, and the power of representation, fueled the organization's roots and trajectory. Eduardo Vilaro joined Ballet Hispánico as a Company dancer in 1985 and became the organization's second Artistic Director in 2009 and CEO in 2015. Vilaro is building

on Ramirez's impact: By expanding and deepening the legacy of visibilizing Latine cultures, and exposing the intersectionality and depth of diversity found in the Hispanic cultures, Vilaro's vision has elevated a community from the margins to its place ingrained at the center of the American cultural landscape.

Today Ballet Hispánico is a catalyst for social change. Our mission opens a platform for new social dialogue, and nurtures and sees a community in its fullness. Through its exemplary artistry, distinguished training program, and deep-rooted community engagement, Ballet Hispánico champions and amplifies Latine voices in the field. For more than fifty years, Ballet Hispánico has provided a place of honor for the omitted, overlooked, and othered. As it looks to the future, Ballet Hispánico is pushing the culture forward on issues of dance and Latine creative expression.

### EDUARDO VILARO

Eduardo Vilaro (He/Him/El) joined Ballet Hispánico as Artistic Director in August 2009, becoming only the second person to head the company since it was founded in 1970. In 2015, Mr. Vilaro took on the additional role of Chief Executive Officer of Ballet Hispánico. He has been part of the Ballet Hispánico family since 1985 as a dancer and educator, after which he began a ten-year record of achievement as founder and Artistic Director of Luna Negra Dance Theater in Chicago. Mr. Vilaro has infused Ballet Hispánico's legacy with a bold and eclectic brand of contemporary dance that reflects America's changing cultural landscape.

Born in Cuba and raised in New York from the age of 6, he is a frequent speaker on the merits of cultural diversity and dance education. Mr. Vilaro's own choreography is devoted to capturing the spiritual, sensual, and historical essence of Latino cultures. He created over 20 ballets for Luna Negra and has received commissions from the Ravinia Festival, the Chicago Sinfonietta, the Grant Park Festival, the Lexington Ballet, and the Chicago Symphony. In 2001, he was a recipient of a Ruth Page Award for choreography, and in 2003, he was honored for his choreographic work at Panama's II International Festival of Ballet. Mr. Vilaro was inducted into the Bronx Walk of Fame in 2016 and was awarded *HOMBRE Magazine's* 2017 Arts & Culture Trailblazer of the Year. In 2019, Mr. Vilaro was the recipient of the West Side Spirit's WESTY Award, was honored by WNET for his contributions to the arts, and most recently, was the recipient of the James W. Dodge Foreign Language Advocate Award. In 2022 and 2023, Mr. Vilaro was included in Crain's New York lists of Notable Hispanic Leaders and Notable LGBTQ Leaders; and was acknowledged as one of Forbes' Kings of Culture, Legends of Business.



## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

**WILLIAM FORSYTHE** (He/Him) has been active in the field of choreography for more than 50 years. His work is acknowledged for reorienting the practice of ballet from its identification with classical repertoire to a dynamic 21st century art form. Forsythe danced with the Joffrey Ballet and later the Stuttgart Ballet, where he was appointed resident choreographer in 1976. In 1984, he began a 20-year tenure as director of the Ballet Frankfurt after which he founded and directed The Forsythe Company until 2015. Forsythe's deep interest in the fundamental principles of organization of choreography has led him to produce a wide range of projects including installations, films, and web-based knowledge creation. While his work for the stage resides in the repertoire of ensembles worldwide, his installations are presented internationally in exhibitions and museums. Forsythe has been the recipient of numerous awards which include the Golden Lion of the Venice Biennale and Der FAUST German Theatre Award, both for lifetime achievement.

**MICHELLE MANZANALES** (She/Her) is a NYC based choreographer whose recent choreographic commissions include new works for the Paul Taylor Dance Company, Oregon Ballet Theater, and Contemporary West Dance Theatre. Manzanales' work for Ballet Hispánico, *Con Brazos Abiertos*, described as a "savvy but deeply sincere meditation on her Mexican American background" (Marina Harss, *New York Times*) and "an exceptional, heart-tugging beauty" (*LA Times*), premiered in 2017 and has since toured worldwide to critical acclaim including its feature in the 2022 BAAND Together Dance Festival at Lincoln Center and New York City Center's 2018 Fall for Dance Festival. Other acclaimed works by Manzanales include her homage to Frida Kahlo, *Paloma Querida*, which was hailed a "visual masterpiece" by Lucia Mauro of the *Chicago Tribune* and was described by the *Chicago Sun-Times* as a "gorgeously designed, richly hallucinatory, multi-faceted vision of the artist." *Sugar in the Raw (Azucar Cruda)*, was also applauded by the *Chicago Sun-Times* as "a staggering, beautiful, accomplished new work." Manzanales is the co-founder of the Latinx Dance Educators Alliance and Director of the Ballet Hispánico School of Dance. Her most recent work, *Sor Juana*, premiered in June 2023 at New York City Center. Per *BroadwayWorld*, *Sor Juana* is a piece that "showcases Manzanales' talent as much as the dancer's superb movement quality, and is whole-heartedly an evening showstopper." She previously led the organization's professional company as rehearsal director & artistic associate for seven seasons.

**ANNABELLE LOPEZ OCHOA** has been choreographing since 2003 following a twelve year dance career in various contemporary dance companies throughout Europe. She has created works for sixty dance companies worldwide including Ballet Hispánico, Atlanta Ballet, Cincinnati Ballet, Compañía Nacional de Danza, Dutch National Ballet, Finnish National Ballet, Royal Ballet of Flanders, Ballet du Grand Théâtre de Genève, Göteborg Ballet, Joffrey Ballet, BJM-Danse Montréal, New York City Ballet, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Pennsylvania Ballet, English National Ballet, San Francisco Ballet and Les Grands Ballets Canadiens, to name a few. In 2012, her first full length work, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, originally created for the Scottish Ballet, received the Critics' Circle National Dance Award



Erin Baiano

for "Best Classical Choreography" and was nominated for the prestigious Olivier Award for best new dance production the following year. Annabelle is the recipient of the Jacob's Pillow Dance Award 2019.

**PEDRO RUIZ** is a renowned choreographer and dancer who was born and trained in Cuba, as well as in Venezuela. In a 21-year career with Ballet Hispánico as its principal dancer, Ruiz also choreographed three critically acclaimed ballets for the company. Clive Barnes of *The New York Post* said of *Guajira*, "An especially fine work of form and structure." Jennifer Dunning of *The New York Times* gave kudos to *Club Havana* saying, "An explosion of sensuous pure dance." And Gia Kourlas of *Time Out New York* glowed, "Ruiz's *Cecilia* furthers the notion that his pieces exhibit a timelessness." Mr. Ruiz has now set out on his own choreographing for other dance companies in the US and internationally. In November 2022, Pedro Ruiz premiered a new ballet, *La Estancia*, which was commissioned for The New Jersey Philharmonic Orchestra's 100th anniversary gala. Ruiz's ballet was performed by The New Jersey Ballet along with two greats—cellist Yo-Yo Ma and Wynton Marsalis playing at NJPAC. Ruiz is the recipient of The Bessie award, the Choo-San Goh award, The Cuban Artist's Fund award and The Joyce Foundation award. The FBI honored Ruiz for his Public Service during 2012's Hispanic Heritage Month. Mr. Ruiz has performed at the White House for several presidents. In 2010, Ruiz founded The Windows Project—a groundbreaking cultural exchange program celebrating the art of dance between the U.S. and Cuba. Ruiz has been the subject of two PBS documentaries: *Pas de Deux* (part of the *In the Life* series), and *Coming Home*, a PBS documentary nominated for a New York Emmy Award. Ruiz's highly successful ballet *Club Havana* was featured in *Lincoln Center at the Movies: Great American Dance*. Ruiz's celebrated poetic duet, *Lasting Embrace*, premiered in the US in July 2016 at the Dancers Responding to AIDS Dance Festival on Fire Island. In 2019 under the auspices of the *¡Cuba Aquí!* Festival, the Ballet Contemporáneo de Camagüey from Cuba made its American debut at Hunter College's Kaye Playhouse bringing a joyful, exuberant program of three dances by their Cuban-American artistic director, Pedro Ruiz.

Ruiz is on the dance faculty of Hunter College, Marymount College, The Ailey School, Pace University, and Ballet Hispánico. He teaches company class for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and is resident artist of the Arnhold Graduate Dance Education Program at Hunter. He has also taught master classes and performed throughout the United States, Europe, and Central and South America.