



For Immediate Release

TWO NIGHTS ONLY!
RASTA THOMAS GUESTS IN NEW YORK PREMIERE OF
MULTIMEDIA FLAMENCO THEATER PRODUCTION OF
FEDERICO GARCIA LORCA'S "POETA EN NUEVA YORK"
NEW YORK CITY CENTER, JUNE 22 & 23
PRODUCTION CONCEIVED, DIRECTED AND CHOREOGRAPHED
BY RAFAEL AMARGO

Direct from Spain - He's a movie star in Europe, a regular face on glossy magazine covers throughout the continent and one of the best known flamenco dancers and choreographers, critically acclaimed for bringing flamenco into the 21st century. In the United States, the name, Rafael Amargo, is unknown except among a small circle of sophisticated dancers. But things will change next month when his multi-award-winning, multimedia flamenco theater production, "Poeta En Nueva York," based on poetry by Federico Garcia Lorca, has its New York premiere at New York City Center, June 22 & 23. The production not only stars Amargo, but also Broadway and ballet star Rasta Thomas.

Lorca's year in New York at Columbia University, 1929-30, was a famously unhappy one, but from it, the poet mined "Poeta en Nueva York," a book of vivid and memorable verse about his experiences. In Amargo's vibrant dance theater spectacle, images of New York in 1929 and recorded readings by well-known Spanish actors and actresses of 13 of these poems provide a powerful, kinetic backdrop for passionate dancing that effortlessly fuses contemporary dance and other dance styles with flamenco. Eleven dancers and eight musicians and vocalists comprise the cast. The production, which eschews a narrative story line in

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RAFAEL AMARGO
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favor of emotional metamorphosis, had its world premiere in 2002 in Madrid where it was awarded Best Dance Show of the Year and Best Dance Show of the Decade by El País, the influential daily Madrid newspaper. The production has also been seen in Barcelona, at the Festival of Two Worlds in Spoleto, the Ariosto Theatre in Reggio Emilia, the Opera Theater and Gran Rex Theatre in Buenos Aires and at the Bolshoi Theater in Moscow.

Amargo was drawn to the Lorca poetry from his own experiences during his year in New York as a 20-year-old student at the Martha Graham Dance Center. Born in Granada in Andalusia, the heartland of flamenco, Amargo studied with the best, initially including Mariquilla and Maite Galán in Granada, followed by work with Alejandro Granados, Ciro, Manolete, El Guito, Antonio Canales and Adrián Galia. He began ballet and classical Spanish dance training at the Royal Conservatory of Madrid at the age of nine after seeing “Carmen” with Antonio Banderas. In addition to dancing with his own company, Nacencia, which he created in 1997, he performed with Antonio Canales, El Guito, Luisillo, María Rosa, Mario Maya, Rafael Aguilar, La Chunga and in Karine Saporte’s contemporary French dance company. In 2002, he received two Max Awards for Dramatic Arts: Best Male Dance Performer and Best Choreography.

The evening curtain for Rafael Amargo’s “Poeta en Nueva York” at New York City Center is at 8pm. Tickets are \$35, \$45, \$55 and \$85, and are available at the box office, or by calling City Tix at 212-581-1212 or online at www.nycitycenter.org. New York City Center is located on 55th Street between 6th and 7th Avenues.

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“Poeta En Nueva York,” an Amores que Matan production, is presented by Eddie Rodriguez for Latin Works Music Corp. and Ralph Mercado Presents.

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