



For Immediate Release

**LIFE'S NOT ONLY A CABARET**  
**BALLET HISPANICO PREMIERES “NIGHTCLUB” AT THE**  
**JACK H. SKIRBALL CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS,**  
**NOVEMBER 11–16**

Life is a cabaret. For Ballet Hispanico, it's a “NightClub.” The full evening work, which fizzes with the vibrancy of Latin music and dance, receives its world premiere at the newly opened Jack H. Skirball Center for the Performing Arts, November 11–16.

Conceived by the company's artistic director, Tina Ramirez, and choreographed by Graciela Daniele, Alexandre Magno and Sergio Trujillo, the three-part work is crowded with vivid characters. Their sleekly energetic dancing tells three distinct tales that travel along the shifting timeline of 20<sup>th</sup> century dance and music styles. Ballet, modern dance and a range of Latin social dances are seamlessly mixed for the telling.

The first episode, Graciela Daniele's steamy “Cada Noche...Tango” (“Every Night...Tango”), with a score by Astor Piazzolla, is set in a Buenos Aires brothel in the 1920's. It is a dark cave-like place, populated with pimps and prostitutes who challenge each other sexually and wager their lives to prove their machismo — all compellingly expressed through electrifying performances of the tango.

The next section, “Dejame Soñar” (“Let Me Dream”), is choreographed by Alexandre Magno and set in a social club in Spanish Harlem in the 1950's. In

**MORE**

this episode, set to music by Tito Puente and Pink Martini, the rhythms of the mambo release pent-up frustrations of the characters' workaday lives, express the people they dream to be and the love they wish to have.

And finally, there is Sergio Trujillo's "Hoy Como Ayer" ("Today Like Yesterday"), which takes place in a drug-infested, neon-lit nightclub, where cocaine and sex are the accepted currency. The dance-drawn characters include a DJ, a Snake and Queenie; the year is 2003. The music is by DJ St. Germain, Gotan Project and XAlfonso.

The libretto for "NightClub" is by Jim Lewis; the set design by Neil Patel. The costumes are by Paul Tazewell, and the lighting is by Peggy Eisenhauer (Part 1) and Howell Binkley (Part 2 & 3).

Argentina-born Graciela Daniele has been nominated for ten Tony Awards and six Drama Desk awards for both her choreography and her work as a director. Her credits include the Tony Award-winning revival of "Annie Get Your Gun," as well as award-winning productions of "Once on This Island" and "Ragtime." Daniele also choreographed Woody Allen's films "Mighty Aphrodite" and "Everyone Says I Love You," both of which earned her Fosse Awards. In 1998, Daniele directed and choreographed "A New Brain" at Lincoln Center Theatre, where she is a resident director.

Alexandre Magno, who had already received several awards in his native Brazil before dancing and choreographing in the United States, creates works that combine jazz, flamenco, hip-hop, ballet and modern dance. He choreographed Madonna's "Drowned World Tour" and the 62<sup>nd</sup> Academy Awards, as well as other film and television productions. Magno also formed his own dance company, Personna Production Co., which has performed at the International Dance Festival of Joinville, Brazil, the largest festival in South America.

SergioTrujillo's recent choreographic work includes "Salome" for the New

**MORE**

**ADD TWO  
BALLET HISPANICO**

York City Opera, productions of “The Sound of Music” and “West Side Story” for the Stratford Festival in Canada and the world premiere of “Peggy Sue Got Married” in London. As a dancer, Trujillo has appeared on Broadway in “Guys and Dolls,” “Kiss of the Spider Woman” and the original production of “Fosse,” as well as in the film “Chicago” and various music videos and television specials.

Ballet Hispanico, founded by Artistic Director Tina Ramirez in 1970, has commissioned over 70 new works, which fuse contemporary American dance and Hispanic culture. Touring throughout the United States, South America and Europe, it has forged a reputation as a world-class company, an award-winning school and a leader in arts education through “Primeros Pasos,” its nationwide public school program, which reaches over 25,000 students around the country each year. In its three decades, the company has performed for over two million people in major venues throughout the U.S., as well as internationally, bringing major works by distinguished choreographers including Tony Award winners Ann Reinking and George Faison, modern innovator David Roussève and Spanish talent Ramón Oller. For its inestimable contribution to Hispanic culture in the United States, the company was awarded the prestigious Hispanic Heritage Award for Education at The Kennedy Center in 1999. Ramirez was awarded the 2003 Dance Magazine Award, and this October, she was honored at “Bravo!,” a concert celebrating the dance of Latin America.

Following preview performances in Charlotte, NC (September 5), Ballet Hispanico performed “NightClub” in such cities as Chicago, IL (September 25); Milwaukee, WI (September 27); and Columbus, OH (October 3). After The Skirball, “NightClub” will be seen in New Haven, CT (January 30); Stamford, CT (February 6); Conway, AR (February 10); Lubbock, TX (February 12); El Paso, TX (February 14); Scottsdale, AZ (February 19–20); and Escondido, CA (February 22). Other repertory stops include Kilmarnock, VA (February 29); Newark, NJ (March 5–7); Charleston, SC (April 15); and Durham, NC (April 17).

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**ADD THREE  
BALLET HISPANICO**

The evening curtain for Ballet Hispanico's "NightClub," Tuesday through Saturday, is at 8pm, with 3pm matinees on Saturday and Sunday. Tickets for Tuesday and Wednesday nights, as well as the matinee shows, are \$30, \$35 and \$40; Thursday through Saturday night, tickets cost \$40, \$45 and \$50. All tickets are available by calling 212-992-8484 or 866-468-7619, online at [www.TicketWeb.com](http://www.TicketWeb.com) and [www.elnightclub.com](http://www.elnightclub.com) or by emailing [nightclub@ballethispanico.org](mailto:nightclub@ballethispanico.org). The Jack H. Skirball Center for the Performing Arts is located at 566 La Guardia Place at Washington Square South.

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**A NightClub of Festivities**

*Life is not only a cabaret, but a "NightClub," with events that will happen both inside and outside the theater:*

**Opening Night Party**, November 11, following the 8pm performance  
**NightClub/After Party at Nells**, November 12, following the 8pm performance  
**Creating NightClub**, a talk with Artistic Director Tina Ramirez about the work, November 15, following the 3pm performance  
**NightClub's Pride Day**, Latin Social Dance Class, November 16, following the 3pm performance

Tickets to the NightClub events must be purchased directly from Ballet Hispanico. Email [nightclub@ballethispanico.org](mailto:nightclub@ballethispanico.org) for more information.

**NightClub** was made possible, in part, by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. "Cada Noche...Tango" was made possible, in part, with public funds from the National Endowment for the Arts and the New York State Council on the Arts and by a grant from MetLife Foundation. "Hoy Como Ayer" was made possible, in part, with commissioning funds from the New York State Council on the Arts and additional funding from Jody and John Arnhold and The Greenwall Foundation.

**MetLife Foundation** is the proud sponsor of Ballet Hispanico's 2003 National Tour. Ballet Hispanico's New York Season is sponsored by The Harkness Foundation for Dance. Additional support has been provided by public funds from the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs.

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