

For Immediate Release



**BALLET HISPANICO CELEBRATES 35th ANNIVERSARY
WITH WORLD PREMIERE AT THE JOYCE THEATER,
NOVEMBER 29–DECEMBER 11
SEASON MARKS FINAL NEW YORK PERFORMANCES BY COMPANY
PRINCIPAL DANCER AND CHOREOGRAPHER PEDRO RUIZ**

*NEWS FLASH: TINA RAMIREZ AWARDED
NATIONAL MEDAL OF ARTS ON NOVEMBER 10*

The oft-interpreted Greek tragedy of Orfeo and Eurydice will be told through a Brazilian lens during Ballet Hispanico’s 35th anniversary engagement at The Joyce Theater, November 29–December 11. In keeping with the celebratory spirit, the two weeks will feature works that have ensured Ballet Hispanico’s unique place on the international dance map.

Alexandre Magno’s “Orfeu in the Carnival of Souls,” a world premiere, takes place during Carnival in one of the largest ghettos in Brazil, teeming with poverty, but radiant with sensuality and high spirits. Tragedy strikes when Death captures Eurydice, Orfeu’s beloved. However, Orfeu is offered a chance to reclaim Eurydice from the underworld. The music, filled with pulsing Brazilian rhythms, is by an array of Brazilian artists; the set is by Eugene Lee, costumes by Anita Yavich and the lighting design by Don Holder.

The repertory will also include María Rovira’s “Tierra de Nadie.” Drawing on the dance and music traditions of her native Spain, Rovira presents a portrait of contemporary life in which one finds oneself in an unfamiliar, neutral territory, or a “tierra de nadie.” Choreographer Peter Pucci’s contribution, “Eternamente y un Día,” set to traditional Mexican folk songs performed by the Kronos Quartet, conjures up vivid suggestions of Mexican sacred ruins, village life and farm animals that define the vibrancy and splendor of its history, culture and landscape.

MORE

**BALLET HISPANICO
ADD ONE**

The season marks the final New York performances by long-time company principal Pedro Ruiz, whose 20-year career with Ballet Hispanico will be celebrated on Tuesday, December 6, with a program featuring two dances created on him by Ramón Oller (“Tears for Violeta” and “Bury Me Standing”), as well as Ruiz’s “Club Havana,” his second ballet for the company. The program will be repeated at the Saturday matinee on December 10.

“Bury Me Standing,” Oller’s haunting distillation of Gypsy life, is titled after Isabel Fonseca’s book on the tragic plight of the Roma, or Gypsy people. Fonseca explained that a Gypsy friend once remarked: “Bury me standing. I’ve been on my knees all my life.” The dance, set to traditional Gypsy melodies, embodies the powerful soul of the Gypsy spirit, the cultures and traditions that affected the development of its character—its sorrows, joys, defiance of oppression and triumphant communal pride.

Inspired by Oller’s friend Violeta, a Holocaust survivor, “Tears for Violeta” evokes the powerful loss and separation suffered by Jews during both the Holocaust and the Spanish Inquisition. The dance, created in 1995, is set to a collage of folk melodies. Ruiz will perform an excerpt from the work with former company principal Alessandra Corona.

In “Club Havana,” Ruiz vividly recalls his Cuban background, filling the stage with the colorful rhythms of Latin social dance forms, until it pulsates with the same intoxicating energy of a dance hall.

On November 10, Ballet Hispanico Artistic Director Tina Ramirez was awarded the 2005 National Medal of Arts, the country’s highest honor for artistic excellence. The award, given for outstanding contributions to the creation and development of art, was presented by President George W. Bush and Laura Bush in a White House ceremony. Ramirez received the prestigious Hispanic Heritage Award for Education at The Kennedy Center in 1999 for her contributions to Latin culture in the United States. Additionally, she is the recipient of other honors including the 2002 Dance Magazine Award and the Governor’s Arts Award, among others. In 2004, AARP Magazine named Ramirez one of its top ten People of the Year.

Since its founding by Ramirez in 1970, Ballet Hispanico has commissioned over 75 works, which fuse contemporary American dance with Hispanic culture. It has

MORE

**BALLET HISPANICO
ADD TWO**

forged a reputation as a world-class company, performing for over two million people in major venues throughout the United States, South America and Europe, where it has presented major works by distinguished choreographers including Tony Award winners Ann Reinking and George Faison, as well as Alberto Alonso, Talley Beatty, Sergio Trujillo and Graciela Daniele.

The award-winning Ballet Hispanico School trains over 600 students a year in ballet, modern and Spanish dance, a curriculum unique in the nation. Ballet Hispanico is also recognized as a leader in arts education for “Primeros Pasos,” its nationwide public school program that reaches over 25,000 students each year.

Ballet Hispanico will be seen in New York City twice this spring: First, April 21 & 22, when the company performs with the Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra, directed by Arturo O’Farrill, at Rose Theater in Frederick P. Rose Hall, home of Jazz at Lincoln Center; and then, May 22–26 & May 30–June 2, in the troupe’s annual performance series for young people at Aaron Davis Hall.

Ballet Hispanico’s touring schedule features performances in Nacogdoches, TX (January 31); Houston, TX (February 3–4); Ames, IA (March 31); Fayetteville, AR (April 7–8); Appleton, WI (April 26); Whitewater, WI (April 27); University Park, IL (April 29); and the USA International Ballet Competition in Jackson, MS (June 17).

Ballet Hispanico’s 2005 Season at The Joyce Theater is sponsored by The Harkness Foundation for Dance. Additional support has been provided, in part, by public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. Metlife Foundation is the Official Tour Sponsor for Ballet Hispanico.

The opening night curtain at The Joyce Theater is at 7:30pm. All other evening curtains, Tuesdays through Saturdays are at 8pm; Sunday evening curtains are at 7:30pm. There will also be 2pm matinees on Saturdays and Sundays. Tickets are \$40 and are available at the box office, online at www.joyce.org or by calling 212-242-0800. The Joyce Theater is located at 175 Eighth Avenue at 19th Street.

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED PROGRAM SCHEDULE.

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**BALLET HISPANICO
THE JOYCE THEATER
175 EIGHTH AVENUE
NOVEMBER 29–DECEMBER 11, 2005
TICKETS: \$40
JOYCE BOX OFFICE: 212-242-0800**

Tuesday, November 29, 7:30pm

Program A
Eternamente y un Día
Orfeu in the Carnaval of Souls *

Wednesday, November 30, 8pm

Program A
Eternamente y un Día
Orfeu in the Carnaval of Souls *

Thursday, December 1, 8pm

Program B
Tierra de Nadie **
Bury Me Standing

Friday, December 2, 8pm

Program B
Tierra de Nadie **
Bury Me Standing

Saturday, December 3, 2pm

Program B
Tierra de Nadie **
Bury Me Standing

Saturday, December 3, 8pm

Program C
Tierra de Nadie **
Orfeu in the Carnaval of Souls *

Sunday, December 4, 2pm

Program C
Tierra de Nadie **
Orfeu in the Carnaval of Souls *

Sunday, December 4, 7:30pm

Program C
Tierra de Nadie **
Orfeu in the Carnaval of Souls *

Tuesday, December 6, 8pm ***

Program D
Bury Me Standing
Tears for Violeta
Club Havana

Wednesday, December 7, 8pm

Program B
Tierra de Nadie **
Bury Me Standing

Thursday, December 8, 8pm

Program C
Tierra de Nadie **
Orfeu in the Carnaval of Souls *

Friday, December 9, 8pm

Program C
Tierra de Nadie **
Orfeu in the Carnaval of Souls *

Saturday, December 10, 2pm

Program D
Bury Me Standing
Tears for Violeta
Club Havana

Saturday, December 10, 8pm

Program C
Tierra de Nadie **
Orfeu in the Carnaval of Souls *

Sunday, December 11, 2pm

Program A
Eternamente y un Día
Orfeu in the Carnaval of Souls *

Sunday, December 11, 7:30pm

Program C
Tierra de Nadie **
Orfeu in the Carnaval of Souls *

LEGEND: * World Premiere
** Revival
*** The performance will highlight the
20-year career of Pedro Ruiz

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