

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **BALLET HISPANICO Presents a Free Performance for Students at LaGuardia Performing Arts Center Wednesday, February 26, 2014 at 11am**

**Ballet Hispanico**, recognized as the nation's leading Latino dance organization since 1970, continues its Performances for Young People series at 11am on Wednesday, February 26, 2014 at LaGuardia Performing Arts Center at LaGuardia Community College 31-30 Thomson Avenue, Long Island City, NY 11101. Admission is free. To make a reservation, email [schooltime@lagcc.cuny.edu](mailto:schooltime@lagcc.cuny.edu) or call (718) 482-5151.

The company's Performances for Young People (PYP) are engaging 50-minute productions that lead students on a guided exploration of Latin American and Caribbean dance forms and music, followed by a Q&A with the Ballet Hispanico dancers. It is the second consecutive year that Ballet Hispanico offers a free student performance at LaGuardia Performing Arts Center and the program this year, narrated onstage by Ballet Hispanico Artistic Director Eduardo Vilaro and Director of Education & Outreach AnaMaria Correa, includes:

### **Asuka**

#### **Choreography by Eduardo Vilaro**

*Asuka* is a celebration of the music of Celia Cruz through the lens of the Latino experience. Cruz, renowned as the "Queen of Salsa," captured the heart of Latinos the world over and became a symbol of perseverance for many. Through rich imagery and humor, Eduardo Vilaro explores the struggles of departure from one's homeland and the exuberance of success experienced by a community.

### **Danzón**

#### **Choreography by Eduardo Vilaro**

Artistic Director Eduardo Vilaro has taken this traditional and quintessentially Cuban dance form and reinvented it with contemporary movement riffs. The work plays on the fusion of jazz improvisation and Cuban rhythms, which propel the dancers into a joyous celebration of music and movement.

### **Mad'moiselle**

#### **Choreography by Annabelle Lopez Ochoa**

*Mad'moiselle* creates a world that explores iconic male/female images and gender identity in Latin American cultures. Through rich imagery and theatrical satire, Annabelle Lopez Ochoa weaves a tongue-in-cheek look at the "Marias" in all our lives.

### **Sombrerísimo**

#### **Choreography by Annabelle Lopez Ochoa**

An absorbing exploration of identity, *Sombrerísimo* makes references to the surrealist world of the Belgian painter René Magritte, famous for his paintings of men in bowler hats. This athletic tour de force for six men, full of rhythmic agility and stylistic flair, was specially commissioned by New York City Center for the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its *Fall for Dance Festival*.

### **Tango Vitrola**

#### **Choreography by Alejandro Cervera**

Turning tango on its head, Alejandro Cervera conjures a metaphysical space that highlights the struggle between men and women through simple yet poetic patterns.

### **Tito on Timbales**

#### **Choreography by William Whitener**

A tribute to the music of master percussionist Tito Puente. In this ballet, choreographer William Whitener captures the joy and intricacies of social dance through cascading patterns, sensual partnering and the community of celebration.

## **ABOUT BALLET HISPANICO**

Celebrating 43 years of dance and culture, Ballet Hispanico is recognized as the nation's premier Latino dance organization. Led by Artistic Director Eduardo Vilaro, Ballet Hispanico explores, preserves and celebrates today's Latino cultures through innovative artistic collaborations, world class dance training and national education and outreach programs. For more information, visit [www.ballethispanico.org](http://www.ballethispanico.org). Follow Ballet Hispanico on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

**EDUARDO VILARO**, a first generation Cuban-American, began as artistic director of Ballet Hispanico in August of 2009, becoming only the second person to head the company since it was founded in 1970. Mr. Vilaro has been part of the Ballet Hispanico family since 1985. As a dancer with the Ballet Hispanico Company, he performed throughout the U.S., Latin America and Europe and assisted founder Tina Ramirez with the development of dance education residencies. Mr. Vilaro is also an accomplished choreographer, having created works for the Ravinia Festival, the Chicago Sinfonietta, the Lexington Ballet, the Civic Ballet of Chicago, and over 20 ballets for Luna Negra Dance Theater, the company he founded in Chicago. He received a B.F.A. in Dance from Adelphi University and an M.A. in Interdisciplinary Art from Columbia College Chicago, where he served as Artist-in-Residence at The Dance Center. Mr. Vilaro was a guest speaker at the Salzburg Global Forum for Young Cultural Leaders and the National Association for Latino Arts and Culture, and continues to speak to the growing need for cultural diversity and dance education.