

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Ballet Hispánico
to perform in
New York City Center's
Digital Fall for Dance Festival
Live from the Stage
Premiering October 21, 2020**

**Digital access \$15 per program; On sale now
Available on demand through November 1**

New York, NY – Ballet Hispánico, the nation's leading Latino dance organization since 1970 and recognized this year as one of America's Cultural Treasures, will perform in **New York City Center's digital Fall for Dance Festival**, live from the stage, premiering on October 21, 2020 at 7:30pm as part of Program 1. Program 2 will premiere on October 26, 2020 at 7:30 PM ET. Both programs will be available on demand through Sunday, November 1, 2020 on City Center's website at NYCityCenter.org/FallforDance.

Ballet Hispánico will perform a New York Premiere of excerpts from **18+1**, an electric, mambo-driven piece celebrating **Gustavo Ramírez Sansano's** 19 years as a choreographer.

"We are so grateful to New York City Center for including us in this unique iteration of this beloved and quintessentially New York festival," said Eduardo Vilaro, Artistic Director & CEO of Ballet Hispánico. "The opportunity for our dancers to be on a stage is so exciting for them, and for us all. We are looking forward to performing in such great company."

Reflecting this singular moment in history, this season marks the first time the Festival will be filmed live on the City Center stage and presented digitally—making the annual sold-out "highlight of the city's cultural calendar" (*The New York Times*) accessible to the entire world to experience.

In keeping with the Festival's long history of accessible tickets, digital access is \$15 per program. Expanding City Center's founding mission to make the arts available to



everyone, digital access will be free for City Center Education and Community Engagement partners including participating schools (students and teachers) and Fall for Dance Lab professional development participants; and \$5 per program for Take 5 Ticket buyers and City Center On the Move partners at NYC Parks recreational centers.

For seventeen seasons, the Fall for Dance Festival has welcomed dance lovers, both existing and new, to experience an array of international dance artists and a variety of genres. Hosted by **Alicia Graf Mack** and **David Hallberg**, the 2020 Festival, produced in collaboration with Nel Shelby Productions, features exclusively artists from New York City performing on the City Center stage—highlighting the resilience of dance and dance artists, and the power of coming together in solidarity through the arts.

“The fall has always signaled the beginning of a new season of performing arts across the city. In that tradition, we are turning the lights back on and presenting the Festival live from our stage as the first steps toward City Center’s reopening to the public,” said **President & CEO Arlene Shuler**. “We are steadfast in our commitment to support artists at this crucial time, and, with rigorous health and safety protocols in place, we are thrilled to have them back in our building where they belong. We have deep, longstanding relationships with many of the artists and companies in this year’s Festival and we are all eager to get them back on the stage. While we may not be able to welcome audiences into the theater yet, I’m delighted that we are able to capture the energy of live performance on our stage and bring these artists directly to our audience—across the city, country, and around the world.”

Program 1 features two world premiere commissions, including a solo piece from Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater’s First Resident Choreographer **Jamar Roberts**—choreographed for himself—and a duet from **Christopher Wheeldon** for New York City Ballet principal dancer **Sara Mearns** and **David Hallberg**, the incoming artistic director of The Australian Ballet. This marks Mearns and Hallberg’s first ever performance together. **Martha Graham Dance Company’s Natasha M. Diamond-Walker** performs *Lamentation*, one of the Company’s quintessential solos, presenting a timeless message about the essence of grief.

In Program 2, acclaimed tap artist **Dormeshia** and Tony-nominated choreographer **Camille A. Brown** join forces for a world premiere City Center Commission, accompanied by musicians **Noah Garabedian**, **Winard Harper**, and **Gabriel Roxbury**. **Calvin Royal III**, recently promoted to principal dancer with **American Ballet Theatre**, also dances a world premiere City Center Commission by choreographer **Kyle Abraham**. **Lar Lubovitch Dance Company**, featuring guests **Adrian Danchig-Waring** and **Joseph Gordon** (principal dancers with New York City Ballet), perform the iconic male duet from *Concerto Six Twenty-Two*. The program also features **Ashley Boudier**, **Tiler Peck**, and **Brittany Pollack** in excerpts from George Balanchine’s *Who Cares?*, an exuberant response to George Gershwin’s classic tunes.

Programming and casting subject to change. Safety of the artists, crew, and staff is City Center’s first priority. All rehearsals and performances are executed in strict adherence to the latest health and safety protocols under the guidance of medical consultants and in accordance with government and union guidelines. New York City Center is located



at 131 West 55th Street between 6th and 7th Avenues. For information call 212.581.1212 or visit NYCityCenter.org.

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NEW YORK CITY CENTER (Arlene Shuler, President & CEO) has played a defining role in the cultural life of the city since 1943. The distinctive neo-Moorish theater welcomes over 300,000 annual visitors to experience internationally acclaimed artists on the same stage where legends like George Balanchine, Leonard Bernstein, and Barbara Cook made their mark. Its landmark 75th Anniversary Season (2018 – 2019) paid tribute to this rich history and celebrated the institution's singular role in the arts today. City Center's Tony-honored Encores! series has celebrated the tradition of American musical theater for over 25 years. In 2013, City Center launched the Encores! Off-Center series, which brings today's innovative artists into contact with groundbreaking musicals from the more recent past. Dance has also been integral to the theater's mission from the start and programs like the annual Fall for Dance Festival, with all tickets \$15, remain central to City Center's identity. Home to a roster of renowned national and international companies including Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater (City Center's Principal Dance Company) and Manhattan Theatre Club, New York City Center is Manhattan's first performing arts center, founded by Mayor Fiorello La Guardia with the mission of making the best in music, theater, and dance accessible to all audiences. That mission continues today through its dynamic programming, art exhibitions, studio events, and master classes, which are complemented by education and community engagement programs that bring the performing arts to over 11,000 New York City students, teachers, and families each year. NYCityCenter.org

About Ballet Hispánico

Ballet Hispánico, America's leading Latino dance organization, has been an oasis of diversity and inclusion for 50 years.

Over the past five decades, Ballet Hispánico's mission-driven ethos has been a catalyst of change for communities throughout our nation. By bringing the richness of the Latinx



culture to the forefront of performance, education, and social advocacy, Ballet Hispánico is one of America's Cultural Treasures.

The organization's founder, National Medal of Arts recipient Tina Ramirez, sought to give voice to the Hispanic experience and break through stereotypes. Today, Ballet Hispánico is led by Eduardo Vilaro, an acclaimed choreographer and former member of the Company whose artistic vision responds to the need for social equity, cultural identity, and quality arts education for all.

Ballet Hispánico has been, and will continue to be, a beacon for diversity. The art we create explores and celebrates the culture without the trappings of stereotypes. We foster the pursuit of art as a way of providing transformation through the exploration of the human condition. Our art often defies gravity, acting as a frontline against cultural division by releasing preconceived notions of culture and instead offering our audiences new perspectives.

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