

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BALLET HISPANICO
To Present a World Premiere at Fire Island Dance Festival 18
at Fire Island Pines, NY
July 20-22, 2012

Ballet Hispanico, recognized as the preeminent Latino dance institution in the United States, will perform as part of the 18th edition of **Fire Island Dance Festival**. The company will present *A Verme*, a World Premiere piece, developed with acclaimed choreographer **Edwaard Liang**.

Edwaard Liang's first work for Ballet Hispanico, a duet set to the lush music of Ezio Bosso, explores the concept of intimacy and the push and pull of energy that connects two individuals as *A Verme* or "Into Me See". The piece follows the tension and release of a timeless attraction between two lovers outside of time and space.

The piece will be danced by Ballet Hispanico Company members Vanessa Valecillos and Jamal Rashann Callender.

Tickets for Fire Island Dance Festival 18 are available online at dradance.org or by phone at 212.840.0770, ext. 268. Tickets are also available in person on weekends in the Fire Island Pines harbor. Ticket buyers are offered a choice of performances: opening performance on Saturday, July 21 at 5pm (cocktails at 4pm); Leadership Sunset Performance on Saturday, July 21 at 7 pm (cocktails following); closing performance on Sunday, July 22 at 5 pm (cocktails following). The highly anticipated weekend-long festival is produced by and benefits Dancers Responding to AIDS, a program of Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS.

Since its debut in 1995 Fire Island Dance Festival has cumulatively raised more than \$2.5 million. Last year's festival raised \$340,445, surpassing the previous record by more than \$23,000.

If you are unable to attend the festival but would like to support the work of Dancers Responding to AIDS, donations are accepted online at dradance.org/festival_donation.

ABOUT BALLET HISPANICO

Celebrating 42 years of dance and culture, Ballet Hispanico is recognized as the nation's preeminent 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. Follow Ballet Hispanico on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

EDUARDO VILARO joined Ballet Hispanico as Artistic Director in August 2009, following a ten-year record of achievement as Founder and Artistic Director of Luna Negra Dance Theater in Chicago. He has been part of the Ballet Hispanico family since 1985. As a dancer in the Ballet Hispanico Company, Mr. Vilaro performed works by Vicente Nebrada, Talley Beatty, Ramon Oller and other audience favorites. As an educator he assisted Ballet Hispanico founder Tina Ramirez in developing a program for children living in temporary housing and was involved with many aspects of the organization's education residencies.

EDWAARD LIANG was born in Taipei, Taiwan. He joined New York City Ballet in the spring of 1993, and that same year he was a medal winner at the Prix de Lausanne International Ballet Competition and the Mae L. Wien Award. He was promoted to Soloist in 1998. Mr. Liang danced with NYCB until 2001, when he joined the Broadway cast of Fosse, performing a leading principle role. Mr. Liang returned to New York City Ballet from 2004-2007 and since then has choreographed a number of works.

His **DISTANT CRIES**, danced by NYCB Principal Dancers Peter Boal and Wendy Whelan, was premiered to rave reviews from the New York Times for the Joyce Theatre, New York City Ballet Gala. Edwaard Liang has since choreographed ballets for many companies and projects such as New York City Ballet, Kirov Ballet, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Joffrey Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, Shanghai Ballet, Washington Ballet, Hubbard Street 2, National Ballet of Novosibirsk, and Singapore Dance Theatre. Mr. Liang was named one of the "Top 25 to Watch" for 2006 by Dance Magazine for choreography, won the 2006 National Choreographic Competition, and was invited to be part of the 2007 National Choreographers Initiative.

ABOUT DANCERS RESPONDING TO AIDS

Founded in 1991 by former Paul Taylor Dance Company members Denise Roberts Hurlin and Hernando Cortez, Dancers Responding to AIDS relies on the extraordinary compassion and efforts of the performing arts community to fund a safety net of social services for those in need. As a program of Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS, DRA supports more than 400 AIDS and family service organizations nationwide as well as the essential programs of The Actors Fund. Through these organizations and programs, DRA and Broadway Cares help to ensure that those in need have access to medicines, counseling, a healthy meal, a safe place to sleep and emergency financial assistance. For more information, please visit Dancers Responding to AIDS online at dradance.org, like us on Facebook at [facebook.com/DRAdance](https://www.facebook.com/DRAdance) or follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/DRA_Dance.

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