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Contact: Michelle Tabnick, (646) 765-4773, michelle@michelletabnickcommunications.com

BALLET HISPANICO
Presents the New York Premiere of
its First Evening-Length Narrative Ballet
CARMEN.maquia
Choreographed by Gustavo Ramírez Sansano
at The Apollo Theater
Saturday, November 22, 2014 at 8pm
Sponsored by Goya

New York, NY – October 9, 2014 – Ballet Hispanico, recognized as the nation’s leading Latino dance organization since 1970, makes its annual return to the Apollo stage to present the New York Premiere of its first evening-length narrative work, *CARMEN.maquia*, choreographed by Gustavo Ramírez Sansano, in a one-night-only engagement on Saturday, November 22, 2014 at 8pm. The performance is sponsored by **Goya Foods**. Tickets are \$28-\$58 and are available online at Ticketmaster.com, by phone at (800) 745-3000, or in person at the Apollo Theater Box Office at 253 W. 125th Street, NYC. For more information, visit www.ballethispanico.org.

Hailed as a “masterpiece” by the *Chicago Sun-Times*, Gustavo Ramírez Sansano’s *CARMEN.maquia*, like Georges Bizet’s iconic opera about a passionate gypsy, is riveting from start to finish. The physically charged and sensual choreography fuses contemporary dance with the subtleties of the Spanish *paso doble* and flamenco dances. A stunning set design by Luis Crespo and minimalist black-and-white costumes by fashion designer David Delfin evoke the paintings of Pablo Picasso. Highly original and full of elaborate partnering, *CARMEN.maquia* is a bold and electrifying reimagining of this tragic tale.

“Storytelling and movement is intrinsic to our culture and woven into the fabric of who we are as human beings, and I am thrilled to give New York audiences the opportunity to experience the story of *Carmen* through the eyes of a contemporary Spanish choreographer,” said Eduardo Vilaro, Artistic Director of Ballet Hispanico. “Gustavo Ramírez Sansano has created a seductive, bold, and brilliant work that will delight and inspire.”

Spaniard Gustavo Ramírez Sansano first presented his work in New York when he choreographed for Ballet Hispanico in April 2014, premiering *El Beso*. Critics praised the choreography and the work:

“Full of bold, astute, unexpected choices.... Imbued with invention, humor, and spontaneity... Let’s see more from Mr. Sansano soon.” – *The New York Times*

Artistic Director: Eduardo Vilaro | Executive Director: Lee Koonce
Founder: Tina Ramirez | Chair, Board of Directors: Kate Lear

“Reflecting archly upon human behavior, Sansano blends silliness with moments of pathos and genuine romance.” – *The Star-Ledger*

“A whimsical and rollicking romp replete with kisses ranging from pecks on the cheek to sweetly amorous encounters.... [Sansano] made full use of the troupe’s agility and stage presence.” – *Broadway World*

Ballet Hispanico’s 2015 New York season is made possible by Jody and John Arnhold, Goya Foods, The Harkness Foundation for Dance, The Fan Fox & Leslie R. Samuels Foundation, The Shubert Foundation, with public support from the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts, the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, and Spain Culture New York-Consulate General of Spain & Spain Arts & Culture.

MetLife Foundation is the Official Tour Sponsor of Ballet Hispanico.
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Gustavo Ramírez Sansano (San Fulgencio, Spain) was Artistic Director of Luna Negra Dance Theater from 2009-2013, after directing proyecto TITOYAYA in Valencia, Spain for four years. Sansano has been the recipient of numerous awards for his choreography, including first prizes at the Ricard Moragas competition in Barcelona, the Dom Perignon choreographic competition in Hamburg, and at Las Artes Escénicas de la Comunidad Valenciana. He has been commissioned to create works for Compañía Nacional de Danza, the Hamburg Ballet, TanzTheater München, Budapest Dance Theater, National Dance Company Wales, Norrdans, Gyori Ballet, Balletto dell’Esperia, BalletMet, IT dansa, Ballet Junior de Genève, and Nederlands Dans Theater, among others. As a dancer, Sansano performed works by Jacopo Godani, Hans Van Manen, Jiří Kylián, Ohad Naharin, Johan Inger, Paul Lightfoot, Victor Ullate and many more, working for the Ballet Joven de Alicante, Ballet Contemporáneo de Barcelona, Ballet de la Comunidad de Madrid, Nederlands Dans Theater II and Hubbard Street Dance Chicago. Gustavo was chosen by the magazine POR LA DANZA for its 15th anniversary as one of the “fifteen choreographers to Watch.” *Dance Magazine* featured him in its annual “25 to Watch” list in 2012, and he was named “Chicagoan of the Year in Arts & Entertainment” by the *Chicago Tribune*.

ABOUT BALLETHISPANICO

Celebrating 44 years of dance and culture, Ballet Hispanico is recognized as the nation’s premier Latino dance organization. Led by Artistic Director Eduardo Vilaro, the Company boasts a rich and diverse repertory of over 100 works by the foremost choreographers and emerging artists of our time. The works expand on founder Tina Ramirez’s legacy of exploring the diversity of Latino culture through a fusion of Latin and contemporary dance powered by theatricality and passion. The Company has performed for an **audience of nearly 3 million**, throughout **11 countries**, on **3 continents**. For more information, visit 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.

ABOUT THE APOLLO THEATER

The legendary Apollo Theater— the soul of American culture— plays a vital role in cultivating emerging talents and launching legends. Since its founding, the Apollo has served as a center of innovation, and a creative catalyst for Harlem, the city of New York, and the world.

With music at its core, the Apollo’s programming extends to dance, theater, performance art, spoken word initiatives, and more. Recent highlights have included James Brown: Get on the Good Foot, which will begin an international tour in 2015, the Africa Now! Festival, and Apollo Club Harlem. The Apollo is a presenting organization that also produces festivals, large-scale dance and music work. The Apollo’s vision is global and includes touring and a digital media presence. The Apollo’s work is organized around a set of core initiatives: Apollo Music (African American and culturally diverse artists); Signature programs (Amateur Night, Salon Series and the Apollo Music Café); Legacy Series (work that celebrates and extends our legacy in a more contemporary way); Global Festival (international and U.S. based artists presentations focused under a specific theme); Special Projects (multidisciplinary work with partner organizations).

Since introducing the first Amateur Night contests in 1934, the Apollo Theater has served as a testing ground for new artists working across a variety of art forms, and has ushered in the emergence of many new musical genres – including jazz, swing, bebop, R&B, gospel, blues, soul, and hip-hop. Among the countless legendary performers who launched their careers at the Apollo are Lauryn Hill, Machine Gun Kelly, Unlocking the Truth, Miri Ben Ari, D’Angelo, Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughan, Billie Holiday, James Brown, Michael Jackson, Gladys Knight, Luther Vandross, and Stevie Wonder; and the Apollo’s forward-looking artistic vision continues to build on this legacy.

The Apollo Theater is a not-for-profit organization and currently in the midst of fundraising for its 21st Century Apollo Campaign, created to extend the institution’s role in fostering artistic innovation and in building appreciation of American culture around the world. For more information, visit www.apollotheater.org.

ABOUT GOYA



Founded in 1936, Goya Foods, Inc. is America’s largest Hispanic-owned food company, and has established itself as the leader in Latin American food and condiments. Goya manufactures packages and distributes over 1,600 high-quality food products from the Caribbean, Mexico, Central and South America. Goya products have their roots in the culinary traditions of Hispanic communities around the world; their combination of authentic ingredients,

robust seasonings and convenient preparation make them ideal for every taste and every table. For more information on Goya Foods, please visit www.goya.com.

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