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BALLET HISPANICO
Artistic Director Eduardo Vilaro
Recognized as Outstanding Artist
ArtsWestchester's 50th Anniversary Initiative
"50 for 50"

New York, NY – April 6, 2015 – Ballet Hispanico is proud to announce that artistic director Eduardo Vilaro has been recognized as an outstanding artist living or working in Westchester County through ArtsWestchester's 50th anniversary initiative "50 for 50." The fifty artists were selected through a competitive nomination process for the quality of their artistic work and their cultural contributions to the community. All artists will receive \$1,000 prizes at an ArtsWestchester luncheon on April 16, 2015.

"I am thrilled to receive this award and thank ArtsWestchester for advocating for all artists," Vilaro said. "Ardsley in Hudson has become a special home for me and I am honored that my work is seen as an important part of the community's fabric."

"Working artists are the lifeblood of a creative community and we believe it's important to honor them and recognize their contributions," said Janet Langsam, CEO of ArtsWestchester.

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 BALLET HISPANICO

Since its inception in 1970, Ballet Hispanico has been recognized as the nation's premier Latino dance organization. Led by award-winning Artistic Director Eduardo Vilaro, the Ballet Hispanico Company has performed for **audiences totaling over 3 million**, throughout **11 countries**, and on **3 continents**. The Company's commitment to contemporary repertory has

produced world-class, multifaceted performances that have featured master works by Nacho Duato, cutting-edge premieres by Cayetano Soto and Annabelle Lopez Ochoa, and live music collaborations with renowned artists such as Paquito D’Rivera and Ruben Blades—to name a notable few. Through the work of its professional company, school of dance, and community arts education programs, Ballet Hispanico celebrates the dynamic aesthetics of the Hispanic diaspora, building new avenues of cultural dialogue and sharing the joy of dance with all communities. For more information, visit www.ballethispanico.org. Follow Ballet Hispanico on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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