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ALYS STEPHENS CENTER TO PRESENT BALLET HISPÁNICO

September 22nd, 2017 – By Rachel Hellwig



Photo by Paula Lobo

New York-based [Ballet Hispánico](#) will stop by the [Alys Stephens Center](#) on Friday night with a mixed-repertory program of works by Annabelle Lopez Ochoa, Michelle Manzanales and Tania Pérez-Salas. Artistic Director Eduardo Vilaro says that Ballet Hispánico presents a “new look at what it means to be Latino today” and “gives access to cultural dialogue.” He describes the company’s unique aesthetic as a fusion of cultures, influences and styles. He likewise says that

Ballet Hispánico has been described as a contemporary ballet company since it employs a classical line in its works.

In this program, Vilaro wanted to highlight Latina choreographers, pointing out that, while there are many female dancers in the dance world today, there aren't as many female choreographers.

“That hasn't evolved the way it should,” he says.



Photo by Paula Lobo.

Vilaro says that “Línea Recta” (“Straight Line”), by Belgian-Columbian choreographer Annabelle Lopez Ochoa, “plays with Flamenco motifs but also incorporates contemporary movements” to classical Spanish guitar music. He explains that, in Flamenco, there is not a lot of partnering, but that this work will include it as part of its contemporary dance infusion. The work debuted in 2016. He describes Michelle Manzanales’s “Con Brazos Abiertos” (“With Open Arms”) as “an exploration of what it means to be Mexican-American.” In this piece, which premiered earlier this year, Houston-born Manzanales draws upon her experience of feeling suspended between two cultures while growing up. Vilaro says the choreography contains both tongue-in-check and serious moments and includes a variety of music reflecting the immigrant experience, ranging from Julio Iglesias to Radiohead.

The 2002 work “Catorce Dieciséis” (“Fourteen Sixteen”) by Mexican choreographer Tania Pérez-Salas explores pi and the cyclical nature of life to the sounds of Vivaldi and other Baroque composers. Vilaro says “it will show the technical prowess of the company and the poetry of movement.”

https://youtu.be/hk2_jHdMB2M

‘Ballet Hispánico’

Sept. 22 at 8 p.m.

Alys Stephens Center, 1200 10th Ave. S.

Tickets start at \$25. [Purchase here.](#)

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