

APOLLO

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BALLET HISPÁNICO
in collaboration with
THE APOLLO THEATER
presents
CARMEN.maquia
December 7-8, 2018 at 8:00pm

Ballet Hispánico, the nation's premier Latino dance organization, returns to the Apollo stage with its celebrated ***CARMEN.maquia*** by **Gustavo Ramírez Sansano** on Friday and Saturday, December 7 and 8, 2018 at 8:00pm. Ballet Hispánico is sponsored by GOYA, which has sponsored the company since 1977.

A Picasso-inspired, contemporary take on Bizet's beloved classic, the physically charged and sensual choreography fuses contemporary dance with nods to the Spanish paso doble and flamenco. Originally created for the Luna Negra Dance Theater of Chicago, ***CARMEN.maquia*** premiered in New York at the Apollo in 2014, the first full-length narrative dance work in Ballet Hispánico's nearly 50-year history.

"In 2012, the Spanish choreographer Gustavo Ramírez Sansano gave Bizet's 'Carmen' a dramatic and stylish contemporary dance makeover... Forget that flaming red dress — this version of the Gypsy seducer's tragic tale takes place in a bleak, modernist black-and-white world, where contemporary ballet flirts with flamenco and paso doble."

– Brian Schaefer, *The New York Times*

"We are thrilled to return to the Apollo Theater with Gustavo Ramírez Sansano's ***CARMEN.maquia***. We are committed to making dance accessible to all audiences with multi-cultural marketing efforts and low-cost ticket prices. We are happy to partner with the Apollo, once again, to make this goal come to fruition," said **Artistic Director & CEO Eduardo Vilaro**.

"We are thrilled to continue our collaboration with Ballet Hispánico; we feel their voice and presence is vital to this city's cultural landscape. They embody the epitome of artistic excellence," said **Kamilah Forbes, the Apollo's Executive Producer**.

"We are honored to sponsor Ballet Hispánico and value working with organizations who share the same mission in bringing communities together while celebrating the richness of our history and culture," said **Rafael Toro, Director of Public Relations of Goya Foods**.



Choreography by Gustavo Ramírez Sansano

Music from Various Works by Georges Bizet, performed by the Slovak Philharmonic, Praha Philharmonic, New Zealand Symphony, and National Symphony Orchestras, and by the Arte Ensemble. Carmen Fantasy, by Pablo de Sarasate, performed by the Apollo Symphony Orchestra

Set Design and Construction by Luis Crespo

Costume Design by David Delfín

Costume Construction by Travis Halsey, Diana Ruettiger

Lighting Design by Joshua Preston

Tickets begin at \$10 and are available online at www.apollotheater.org/event/ballet-hispanico2018, 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.

Ballet Hispánico's New York Season is made possible by Jody & John Arnhold, the Howard Gilman Foundation, GOYA Foods, Inc., The Harkness Foundation for Dance, The Frances Lear Foundation, MetLife Foundation, The SHS Foundation, The Fan Fox & Leslie R. Samuels Foundation, The Scherman Foundation, The Shubert Foundation, Inc., with public support from the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, and the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

**Univision Communications, Inc. is Media Sponsor of Ballet Hispánico.
This performance at the Apollo is sponsored by Citi.**

Gustavo Ramírez Sansano was Artistic Director of Luna Negra Dance Theater (2009-2013), and now he combines his work as a freelance choreographer with the direction of Titoyaya Danza, the company he founded in Spain with Veronica Garcia Moscardo in 2006. Sansano has received numerous awards for his choreography, including first prize at the Ricard Moragas Competition in Barcelona (1997), Prix Dom Perignon Choreographic Competition in Hamburg (2001), and Premio de Las Artes Escénicas de la Comunidad Valenciana (2005). Sansano has been commissioned to create works for many companies such as Nederlands Dans Theater, Compania Nacional de Danza, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Luzerner tanz Theater, Ballet BC, The Hamburg Ballet, Atlanta Ballet, Ballet Hispánico, and Luna Negra Dance Theater, among others.

About Ballet Hispánico

Ballet Hispánico, the premier Latino dance organization in the United States, has been bringing individuals and communities together to celebrate and explore Latino cultures through dance for nearly 50 years. Whether dancing on stage, in school, or in the street, Ballet Hispánico creates a space where few institutions are breaking ground.

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 vision of social equity, cultural identity and quality arts education for all drives its programs.

Ballet Hispánico, a role model in and for the Latino community, is inspiring creativity and social awareness in our neighborhoods and across the country by providing access to arts education.

Eduardo Vilaro joined Ballet Hispánico as Artistic Director in August 2009, becoming only the second person to head the company since it was founded in 1970. In 2015, Mr. Vilaro took on the additional role of Chief Executive Officer of Ballet Hispánico. He has been part of the Ballet



Hispanic family since 1985 as a dancer and educator, after which he began a ten-year record of achievement as founder and Artistic Director of Luna Negra Dance Theater in Chicago. Mr. Vilaro has infused Ballet Hispánico's legacy with a bold and eclectic brand of contemporary dance that reflects America's changing cultural landscape. Born in Cuba and raised in New York from the age of six, he is a frequent speaker on the merits of cultural diversity and dance education.

Mr. Vilaro's own choreography is devoted to capturing the spiritual, sensual and historical essence of Latino cultures. He created over 20 ballets for Luna Negra and has received commissions from the Ravinia Festival, the Chicago Sinfonietta, the Grant Park Festival, the Lexington Ballet and the Chicago Symphony. In 2001, he was a recipient of a Ruth Page Award for choreography, and in 2003, he was honored for his choreographic work at Panama's II International Festival of Ballet. Mr. Vilaro was also inducted into the Bronx Walk of Fame in 2016 and was awarded *HOMBRE Magazine's* 2017 Arts & Culture Trailblazer of the Year.

About the Apollo Theater

The legendary Apollo Theater—the soul of American culture—plays a vital role in cultivating emerging artists 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, spoken word, and more. This includes special programs such as the blockbuster concert *Bruno Mars Live at the Apollo, 100: The Apollo Celebrates Ella*, the annual Africa Now! Festival, and the New York premiere of the opera *We Shall Not Be Moved*. The Apollo is a performing arts presenting organization that also produces festivals and large-scale dance and music works organized around a set of core initiatives that celebrate and extend the Apollo's legacy through a contemporary lens; global festivals including the Women of the World (WOW) Festival and *Breakin' Convention*; international and U.S.-based artist presentations focused on a specific theme; and Special Projects, multidisciplinary collaborations 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 D'Angelo, Lauryn Hill, Machine Gun Kelly, Miri Ben Ari, 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.

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 2,500 high-quality food products from Spain, the Caribbean, Mexico, Central and South America. Goya products have their roots in the culinary traditions of Hispanic communities around the world. The combination of authentic ingredients, robust seasonings and convenient preparation makes Goya products ideal for every taste and every table. For more information on Goya Foods, please visit www.goya.com.

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