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**Ballet Hispánico's *B Unidos* Facebook Watch Party Series  
Celebrates 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Archival Performance Treasures Take Center Stage**

**Winter Watch Party Schedule Unveiled**

**New York, NY – Ballet Hispánico**, the nation's renowned Latinx dance organization recognized this year as one of America's Cultural Treasures, kicks off 2021 with a glimpse into the company's past. The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration continues with a series of entertaining archival repertory pieces, inviting audiences to look back at vibrant performances from the 80s and 90s with the **Ballet Hispánico Watch Party Series** on Wednesdays, January 13, 27 and February 10, available at [ballethispanico.org](http://ballethispanico.org), and on [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#).

Enjoy a Company performance from the comfort of your own home, followed by live Q&A sessions with Artistic Director and CEO of Ballet Hispánico Eduardo Vilaro, choreographers and Company and alumni dancers. Each of the pieces feature Mr. Vilaro himself, during his years as a dancer with the Company.

**January 13 at 6:30pm**

***Arabesque*** by Vicente Nebrada, with post-event appearances by former Company dancers Justine DiCostanzo and Sean Kim.

**January 27 at 6:30pm**

***¡Si Señor! ¡Es Mi Son!*** by Alberto Alonso, followed by a conversation with former Company member Donald Roman Lopez and other special guests.

**February 10 at 7pm**

***Café America*** by George Faison, including post-event conversation with the choreographer himself.

***Arabesque (1984)***

Vicente Nebrada's *Arabesque* is an elegant suite of dances set to the music of Spanish composer, Enrique Granados. Traces of Flamenco influence are hinted at in the upper body as the dancers move through a series of lush balletic contemporary phrase work. Choreography by Vicente Nebrada; Music by Enrique Granados; Costume Design by Randy Barcelo; Lighting Design by Donald Holder; Dancers: Mari MacKenzi, Justine

DiCostanzo, Nadine Mose, Kathryn Ross, Teresina Goheen, Jose Costas, Verne Hunt, Cholsu Kim, Pedro Ruiz, Eduardo Vilaro

### ***¡Si Señor! ¡Es Mi Son! (1994)***

Choreographer Alberto Alonso brings the spirit of Cuba to life. Elaborately costumed dancers make their way across the stage in a carnival style procession eventually breaking off in pairs, their movement intertwined with the Afro-Cuban rhythms of Gloria Estefan's music from her album, *Mi Tierra*.

Choreography by Alberto Alonso; Assisted by Sonia Calero; Music by Gloria Estefan (from the album *Mi Tierra*); Costume Design by Randy Barcelo; Lighting Design by Donald Holder; Dancers: Pedro Ruiz, Amir Levy, Natalia Zisa, Eduardo Vilaro, Lynne Morrissey, Alessandra Corona, Rebecca Jefferson, Veronica Ruiz, Donald Roman Lopez, Yael Levitin, Marc Calamia, Linda Caceres, Rita Blandino, Christina Figueroa, Eric Rivera

### ***Café America (1990)***

*Café America* is a bittersweet envisioning of the "American Dream." Three immigrants make their way to a new life dawned in brilliant-colored suits with a sense of determination evoked by Faison's expansive, jazzy choreography.

Choreography by George Faison; Music by Ruben Blades and Julio Iglesias; Set Design by Pepon Osorio; Costume Design by Bernard Johnson; Lighting Design by Tim Hunter; Dancers: Marc Calamia, Eduardo Vilaro, and Amir Levy

### **#BUnidos**

*#BUnidos began as a daily video series to combat the loss of performances and community programming due to COVID-19. As social distancing continues, we continue to provide content through our social media platforms as a way to instill a sense of community within our BH familia and offer ways to explore dance and Latino cultures online. #BUnidos! Social distancing does not mean emotional distancing.*

"As a community of dancers, artists, and human beings, we are all in this together. We will persevere through this challenging time, and we hope that this programming provides a coping outlet, for you, for our followers and the community overall," said Eduardo Vilaro, Artistic Director & CEO of Ballet Hispánico. "Now more than ever, it is important to band together in support of the arts. The personal and professional challenges that we have already endured and will continue to face over the next few weeks or months are significant. What we can take from this time of cancellations, uncertainty and social distancing is a chance to use our creativity to connect with the community on a new level. Social distancing does not mean emotional distancing. Ballet Hispánico was founded upon and has always believed in the importance of reaching and servicing our community through dance and culture. As this pandemic occurs during our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, it provides us with an opportunity to reflect on how far we have come, get back to our roots by reaching out to community near and far, and look forward to what is ahead."

### **About Ballet Hispánico**

Ballet Hispánico is the nation's renowned Latino dance organization and one of America's Cultural Treasures. Ballet Hispánico brings communities together to celebrate and explore Latino cultures through innovative dance performances, transformative dance training, and enduring community engagement experiences.

Founded in 1970 by National Medal of Arts recipient, Tina Ramírez, the organization emerged during the post-civil rights movement on New York's Upper West Side, providing a safe haven for primarily Black and Brown Latinx youth seeking artistic sanctuary during New York City's plight in the 1970s. The need for place, both culturally and artistically, led families to find Ballet Hispánico. The focus on dance as a means to develop working artists, combined with the training, authenticity of voice, and power of representation, fueled the organization's roots and trajectory.

With its strong emphasis on dance, achievement, and public presence, the organization has flourished in its three main programs: its Company, School of Dance, and Community Arts Partnerships. The organization serves as a platform for historically omitted and overlooked artists providing them with increased capacity, voice, and affirmation. Over the past five decades, by leading with Latinx culture at the forefront of performance, education, and advocacy, Ballet Hispánico's mission is a catalyst of change and possibility for communities throughout our nation.

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