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## Exclusive: Angel Sanchez Designs for Ballet Hispanico

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Each year, the Ballet Hispanico, recognized as the nation's leading Latino dance organization, hosts its annual benefit, Dance Into Fashion. The proceeds benefit Ballet Hispanico's arts education programs, which provide 1,500 NYC public school children per year with experiences that celebrate their individuality and creativity, while promoting physical health and cultural awareness.

This year, Venezuelan-born fashion designer Angel Sanchez was called upon to create original costumes for a new choreographic work premiering at the Company's New York Season at the Joyce

Theater on April 15-27, 2014.

Lucky for us, we got a sneak peek at the sketches for the costumes, as well as some insight from the designer on what it took to go from evening chic to tutu design.

Tell us a little about your involvement with the Ballet Hispanico.

I'm always ready for new creative projects, it helps a lot to enrich and evolve. I was particularly drawn to make this costume, which has the Hispanic ingredient and my passion for dance.

You're best known for your evening and bridal collections. How different was it for you to create performances pieces?

Designing within a choreographic concept is a completely different experience. My fittings were specially made to see how they moved and how they looked together visually on the stage.



What is one piece that you're especially excited about?

The short skirt with a neoprene top and elastic bands is one of my favorites!

Are you a dancer yourself?

I've always been a good dancer! When young I thought seriously about being a professional contemporary dancer but did not dare to try.

What's your go-to dance move?

I'm good at salsa.

You see models walk the runway in your clothing, and now, you've seen dancers perform in your designs. Is that experience the same?

Completely different! In the stage my designs are part of a whole. In the runway my collection is the protagonist.

How does your Latin heritage influence your designs?

I don't like using the Latin ingredient in my design formula, but I guess that is always present. It is not premeditated. It is just there.