

<http://hauteliving.com/2015/03/inside-the-ballet-hispanicos-spring-gala/560473/>

Inside the Ballet Hispanico's Spring Gala

BY MIMI LOMBARDO
HAUTE SCENE, NEWS
MARCH 31, 2015



The Plaza Hotel's Grand Ballroom was on fire for the Ballet Hispanico's spring gala. The 44-year-old company lead by artistic director, Eduardo Vilaro, has performed for audiences in 11 countries on three continents, reaching over three million people.

The Grand Ballroom's atmosphere was festive and chill, with tables surrounding the dance floor springing to life with performances by the Ballet Hispanico's School of Dance and the students of the "Puente" program, which educates children about the arts.



The Plaza Hotel's Grand Ballroom for Ballet Hispanico's Spring Gala



Ballet Hispanico's Spring Gala



Ballet Hispanico's Spring Gala at The Plaza Hotel NYC



Ballet Hispanico's Spring Gala at The Plaza Hotel



Ballet Hispanico's Spring Gala at The Plaza Hotel

After performances by the vibrantly costumed children, a dinner of traditional Spanish dishes was served. A delicious ceviche de pardo was the starter followed by huge dished of short ribs, plantains, frijoles negros (black beans simmered with bay leaf, cumin and oregano), and arroz con pollo clasico (pan roasted chicken with cachucha peppers and sofrito), which were all placed on the table family style.

Several people were honored during the evening, including the ballet's board president, David Perez and his wife, Milena Alberti-Perez. Both making humorous references to Ricky Riccardo,

the Cuban-born husband of Lucille Ball. Both David and his wife Milena have given voice to the latin community through their efforts on behalf of the ballet.

Artistic Director Eduardo Vilaro said, “Ballet Hispanico is community connecting everyone of all ages to learn about, investigate and celebrate Latino cultures and dance. We are the ‘puentes’ or bridges, that connect past, present and future.”

Salsa dancing commenced after the awards, and almost all the seats were vacated with dancing couples or those enjoying the desert buffet served in the foyer.

Ballet Hispanico is set to perform at the Joyce Theater April 14 through 26.

The Joyce Theater, 175 Eighth Avenue, New York, NY. 212-242-0800