

BALLET HISPANICO'S UNIQUE CHOREOGRAPHY INSTITUTE CONTINUES WITH CUBAN CHOREOGRAPHER GEORGE CÉSPEDES JUNE 6 - 17

Augmented Program Features New Initiatives and Partnerships

NEW YORK, NY – May 23, 2011 – Ballet Hispanico, recognized as the preeminent Hispanic-American dance institution in the United States, announced today the third installment of its groundbreaking choreography institute, *Instituto Coreográfico*, being held June 6 -17 at company headquarters on the Upper West Side of Manhattan. This session of the *Instituto* features emerging Cuban choreographer **George Céspedes** (currently a dancer with Danza Contemporanea de Cuba in Havana) who will work with Ballet Hispanico company members to create his first work for an American company. Céspedes is among the few Cuba nationals to create a work for a major U.S. dance company.

In 2010, Ballet Hispanico launched a groundbreaking new choreography institute created for Latino artists to explore culturally specific work in a nurturing, learning laboratory. The inaugural *Instituto Coreográfico* took place September 13 – 24, 2010 when Cuban-American choreographer **Maray Ramis Gutierrez** created a new work, “Puntos Suspensivos,” on company members which then premiered during Ballet Hispanico’s annual New York season at The Joyce Theater last December. The *Instituto* continued in January when Ballet Hispanico dancer **Nicholas Villeneuve** created a new work on his fellow company members.

During **Céspedes** residency in June, he will receive: ongoing feedback from a group of notable artistic mentors and advisors, daily archive DVD recordings of the rehearsals, an edited film of the resulting work, an academic advisor, and a showing of his work. Should an artistically appropriate work emerge from this process, it could enter Ballet Hispanico’s permanent repertory.

For the remainder of the 2011-2012 *Instituto* season, two choreographers will be selected via an extensive application process being held this summer. Beginning this fall, several new initiatives are planned to broaden and enhance the program:

- **Partnership with New York University (NYU)** – Ballet Hispanico will pair each *Instituto* choreographer with a Latin American Studies or History graduate student. The NYU students will coordinate access to the University’s resources. Choreographers will audit a culture-related class at NYU to garner more knowledge for their projects. Choreographers and students will collaborate on capturing and communicating the *Instituto* experience through blog posts, narrative for film clips, and a presentation to the NYU community.

- **International Exchange through I-Dance** – One of the chosen choreographers will participate in an I-Dance residency program based in Latin America. On an international scope, BH will engage in cultural exchange with communities abroad that are interested in learning about the work of contemporary Hispanic-American dance artists and provide content and resources for these activities.
- **High School Program** – Ballet Hispanico will launch a satellite *Instituto* program for New York City high school students. Three student choreographers will be chosen from BH in-school residencies to work with BH student dancers in developing their choreographic voice. The program will take place over February winter break and involve 20 hours of time in the BH studios under the mentorship of BH Company dancers. Student choreographers will consult with the BH Wardrobe Supervisor and Technical Director to design costumes and lighting, and will receive a DVD work sample.

For further information about *Instituto Coreográfico* or to speak with Artistic Director Eduardo Vilaro about the program, please contact Brooke Botsford at 212-576-2700 ext. 241 or bbotsford@goodmanmedia.com.

About Ballet Hispanico

Under Eduardo Vilaro's artistic leadership, Ballet Hispanico explores, preserves, and celebrates Latino cultures through dance. The mission unfolds in the work of the professional Company, the School of Dance, and the Education and Outreach programs. Together, these divisions celebrate the dynamic aesthetics of the Hispanic diaspora, building new avenues of cultural dialogue and sharing the joy of dance with all communities.

The School of Dance has forged a reputation among the nation's leading professional training programs, offering a balanced curriculum in ballet, modern and Spanish dance – a practice unique among America's dance training institutions. As a result, students receive not only a thorough grounding in the primary techniques required for a successful performing career, but also specialized training in the rich and varied dance tradition which, for many, is their cultural heritage. For more information, visit www.balleshispanico.org. Follow Ballet Hispanico on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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