

BALLET HISPANICO

**JOINT STATEMENT FROM
BALLET HISPANICO CHAIRMAN JODY GOTTFRIED ARNHOLD
AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR VERDERY ROOSEVELT
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New York, NY – After 31 years as Executive Director of Ballet Hispanico, Verdery Roosevelt has decided to step down this week as the company closes its 2010 fiscal year. A transitional period has been carefully planned during which Eduardo Vilaro, Ballet Hispanico’s Artistic Director, will take on the additional responsibilities of the administration of the organization.

Roosevelt joined the staff of Ballet Hispanico in 1978, and became Executive Director a year later. In partnership with Founder Tina Ramirez, she was responsible for the growth of the nation's preeminent Hispanic dance company and school from a community-based organization into a nationally recognized cultural institution.

During her tenure with Ballet Hispanico, she oversaw the production of more than 50 new works for the company’s repertory, working with internationally renowned choreographers and designers to realize Ramirez’s vision. Under her direction, scholarship support for the Ballet Hispanico School of Dance grew to over \$150,000 annually, while Ballet Hispanico’s Education and Outreach programs expanded to serve 15,000 students on average around the country each year. In addition, she oversaw the purchase and dramatic expansion of Ballet Hispanico's headquarters on Manhattan's Upper West Side, as well as the establishment of working capital and endowment funds.

“Verdery’s tenure with Ballet Hispanico has been remarkable,” said Chairman of the Board, Jody Gottfried Arnhold. “Her leadership, dedication, perseverance and vision were critical to the growth and success of the organization over the past three decades. We are grateful for her hard work and accomplishments and look forward to building upon those successes in the coming years as we continue to strengthen the organization.”

“It has been a great honor to be a part of this incredible organization,” said Roosevelt. “It was a true privilege to help advance Tina Ramirez’s founding vision and to help shape Ballet Hispanico into the renowned dance institution that it is today. More recently, I am proud to have participated in bringing Eduardo Vilaro back to Ballet Hispanico. I will always be among the organization’s biggest fans and look forward to watching it continue to thrive.”

This year marks the company’s 40th Anniversary, a milestone which Roosevelt contributed greatly toward achieving.

“I’ve had the great pleasure to work in partnership with Verdery for the past year,” said Eduardo Vilaro. “Her passion and deep experience in the dance world have been great assets to the organization. Ballet Hispanico is positioned now for even greater growth and success and I look forward to building on that foundation to elevate the company to extraordinary new heights.”

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.

Performing a repertory by the foremost choreographers of our time as well as emerging artists, the Company fuses Latin dance with classical and contemporary techniques to create a new style of concert dance in which theatricality and passion propel every move. The Company has offered over 3,350 performances to an audience of over 2 million, throughout 11 countries, on 3 continents.

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.

The Education and Outreach program has touched the lives of some 20,000 New York City school children. The touring program includes teacher training sessions, classroom workshops and master classes with Company members, and special Performances for Young People, and has brought the joy of Latino dance traditions to countless thousands across the country.

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. Celebrating our 40th Anniversary, we proudly enter the fifth decade of expanding the vision of founder Tina Ramirez.

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