

Launch of PROJECT GLOBAL: International Festival featuring LATIN HEAT A Celebration of Latin Culture with World and Company Premieres

Entertainment 2015-06-16 07:26:20

Washington, DC - The Washington Ballet (TWB) is pleased to announce the launch of PROJECT GLOBAL, a multi-year initiative to explore and celebrate cultures of different regions around the world. In its upcoming 2015.2016 season, TWB presents *LATIN HEAT*, AN OCTOBER FESTIVAL CELEBRATING LATIN CULTURE WITH LIVE MUSIC AND DANCE. THE MAINSTAGE PERFORMANCE OF

LATIN HEAT AT THE KENNEDY CENTER, EISENHOWER THEATER IS AN INSTALLMENT OF FIVE WORKS FEATURING SWIRLING SALSA, FLAMENCO GUITARS AND A HAUNTING DAY OF THE DEAD CELEBRATION. THE PERFORMANCES INCLUDE WORLD AND COMPANY PREMIERES AND THREE OF THE MOST SOUGHT-AFTER NAMES IN CONTEMPORARY CHOREOGRAPHY: MAURO DE CANDIA, ANNABELLE LOPEZ OCHOA AND EDWAARD LIANG.

“We’re kicking off our most adventuresome season yet by collaborating with innovative choreographers from around the world,” says TWB Artistic Director, Septime Webre. “We’re an American ballet company with an international perspective so it seems fitting that we’re launching the season with PROJECT GLOBAL and a focus on Latin America culture and art. The culture has such a significant influence on all sectors- with arts being one of the most visible and palpable.”

LATIN HEAT includes five works: *Bitter Sugar*, *Sombrerísimo!*, *La Ofrenda (The Offering)*,

Don Quixote, Act III, Pas de Deux and 5 Tangos.

LATIN HEAT

Bitter Sugar

World Premiere

Salsa takes center stage in this complex work combining dominant physicality with an astonishing flare for sexiness and humor. The work of the Italian choreographer Mauro de Candia is marked by a completely individual style. His choreographies often contain dynamic group sections and complex partner work, but these are almost always alternated by serene and poetic fragments.

His choices of music are often startling but are logical in his work. This is anSometimes his choices of music are truly startling: in *Purple Fools* – receiving its Dutch premiere at Introdans Ensemble for Youth during the 2013/2014 season – he effortlessly combines a Mozart aria, an over-familiar tango and a languid pop song. But De Candia can allow himself such risks, because thanks to his great musicality even the strangest music collages sound completely logical in his work. This iT unforgettable world premiere and TWB’s first presentation of work by this ascendant international choreographer.

Music: La Lupe

Choreography: Mauro de Candia

Sombrerísimo!

Company Premiere

An athletic tour de force of six men, this work features a hat as the centerpiece of the choreography. Set to the music of swirling flamenco guitar and raucous Spanish rap, *Sombrerísimo* makes references to the surrealist world of the Belgian painter René Magritte, famous for his paintings of men in bowler hats. This work was commissioned by New York [City Center](#) for the 10th anniversary of the Fall for Dance Festival in 2013 and was first performed by Ballet Hispanico. The work made Dance Magazine's "Best of 2013" list. Belgian-Colombian choreographer Annabelle Lopez Ochoa infuses technique from modern dance, ballet, flamenco and lyrical jazz, with rhythmic agility and stylistic flair. She works regularly within the dance field but also creates for theatre, opera and musical theatre.

Music: Banda Ionica, Titi Robin

Choreography: Annabelle Lopez Ochoa

La Ofrenda (The Offering)

A tribute to Mexico's Day of the Dead, a celebration of remembrance and prayer for the deceased, Edwaard Liang draws from classical ballet works to choreograph this spirited mingling of dead souls with a set that includes several hundred fiberglass sculptures depicting flowers, doves and skulls, the iconic symbols of the holiday. Highlights include a passionate pas de deux with the strength and vitality of ballet and Latin dance moves. Liang has built an international reputation as a choreographer, and is known for drawing much of his inspiration from music. *La Ofrenda* premiered in 2012, performed by The Washington Ballet.

Music: Lila Downs

Choreography: Edwaard Liang

Don Quixote, Act III, Pas de Deux

This grand pas de deux from the iconic classical ballet repertoire has a dizzying display of virtuosic technique as coquette Kitri asserts herself as both fiery and majestic to the rakish barber Basilio. *Don Quixote* is based on the epic masterpiece by Miguel de Cervantes. This work was originally choreographed by Marius Petipa in 1869.

Music: Leon Minkus (Petipa did libretto)

Choreography: Marius Petipa

5 Tangos

This sizzling work combines ballet with the passion, sensuality and drama of the tango. *5 Tangos* premiered at the Het Nationale Ballet (Amsterdam) in 1977 and was first performed by The Washington Ballet in 2014 as part of its fall

program, *Petite Mort*. World-renowned choreographer Hans van Manen helped formulate the now commonly accepted synthesis of academic and other dance techniques. Trademarks of his style include clarity, simplicity and the extremely balanced, almost mathematical structure of his dance compositions.

Music: Astor Piazzolla

Choreography: Hans van Manen

LATIN HEAT Main Stage Performances

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Kennedy Center Eisenhower Theater

Wednesday, October 14, 2015, 7:30PM (Preview)

Thursday, October 15, 2015, 7:30PM (Opening Night)

Friday, October 16, 2015, 7:30PM

Saturday, October 17, 2015, 1:30PM Family Series matinee performance: ***LATIN HEAT: Kids!***

Saturday, October 17, 2015, 7:30PM

Sunday, October 18, 2015, 1:30PM; 7:30PM

LATIN HEAT: KIDS!

A MATINEE PERFORMANCE OF *LATIN HEAT* THAT FEATURES INTERACTIVE ELEMENTS GEARED TOWARD YOUNG AUDIENCES.

Eisenhower Theater, Saturday, October 17, 1:30PM

Additional Festival Events

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theNEWmovement: ¡Fiesta Latina!

This exploration of south-of-the-border rhythms includes excerpts from Annabelle Lopez Ochoa's *Sueño de Mármol* and Septime Webre's *Carmen Suite* and *Juanita y Alicia*. *theNEWmovement* series features The Washington Ballet's Studio Company, a group of dancers who receive vigorous training and are poised to become the dance stars of the future.

The England Studio at The Washington Ballet, 3515 Wisconsin Avenue, NW

Friday, September 25, 7PM

Saturday, September 26, 7PM

THEARC Theater at 1901 Mississippi Avenue, SE

Sunday, September 27, 3PM Performance; 4PM Post Performance Reception

inthewings: The Latin Invasion

A unique, insightful opportunity as Artistic Director Septime Webre delves into the contributions that Latin artists are making to artistic sensibilities. This *inthewings* event is one in a series of intimate evenings that provide an insider's view of each performance.

The England Studio at The Washington Ballet, 3515 Wisconsin Avenue, NW

Monday, October 5, 6:30PM

As part of the *LATIN HEAT* festival, DCPS students of TWB's DanceDC program will be able to attend a free dress rehearsal of *LATIN HEAT* at Eisenhower Theater.

PROJECT GLOBAL is slated to return in the 2016.2017 season with an *Asian Dream* festival. Future TWB PROJECT GLOBAL programs will include focuses on Africa and Israel among other regions.

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ABOUT PROJECT GLOBAL: TWB's Multi-Year International Initiative

Embedded in the international cultural fabric of Washington, DC, TWB has attracted dancers, students and teachers from around the world and it is their common passion for dance and classical ballet that unifies them. This season, we are pleased to formalize our interest in global cultural expression with a multi-year initiative that will explore different regions of the world in a festival format that will annually celebrate a region with 7 presentation elements:

A mainstage subscription-series festival production by TWB Focus on choreographers, themes and the artistic progress from the region Focus on music and choreography from the region for a TWB Studio Company *theNEWmovement* performance The study of the history and culture of the region by DC Public School Students that participate in TWB's *DanceDC* Program Opportunities for young professionals to be engaged through our *beerballet&bubbly* program with special access to performances *Diplomatic Dance* : A series of programs that engage the ambassadorial and embassy community to excite and inform the DC metropolitan area about the beauty and complexity of their respective cultures A cultural trip to the region for TWB patrons

ABOUT THE WASHINGTON BALLET: The Washington Ballet (TWB) was originally founded as The Washington School of Ballet in 1944 by legendary ballet pioneer Mary Day and incorporated as a professional company in 1976. The Washington Ballet is one of the pre-eminent ballet organizations in the United States. TWB built an international reputation presenting bold works by choreographers from around the world, including Choo San Goh, Christopher Wheeldon, Mark Morris, Twyla Tharp, Hans van Manen and JiÅ™í Kylián, as well as neoclassical masterworks and fresh staging of 19th century classics. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Septime Webre and Managing Director Arthur Espinoza, Jr., TWB has embraced a three-part mission: ensuring excellence in its professional performance company; growing the next generation of dancers through its Washington School of Ballet; and serving the community in which it resides through robust community engagement programs.

ABOUT SEPTIME WEBRE (Artistic Director) was appointed Artistic Director of The Washington Ballet in June 1999 after six years as Artistic Director of American Repertory Ballet in New Jersey. In his 15 year tenure as Artistic Director,

Webre has committed himself to artistic venture, community engagement and growth of the organization. Under Webre's creative leadership, The Washington Ballet has developed a three-pronged mission: growing the artistry and international reputation of The Washington Ballet; training the next generation of dancers through The Washington School of Ballet; and deepening and expanding the organization's commitment to community engagement through the visionary programs of *DanceDC*, *EXCEL!* and TWB@THEARC. As a choreographer, Mr. Webre's works appear in the repertoires of many companies in North America, including Pacific Northwest Ballet, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens, Kansas City Ballet, Louisville Ballet, Ballet Austin, Cincinnati Ballet, Ballet West, Colorado Ballet, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, Atlanta Ballet, Ballet Concierto de Puerto Rico and Aspen/Santa Fe Ballet, among others. As a dancer, Mr. Webre was featured in works by Balanchine, Taylor, Tudor, Ailey, and Cunningham, as well as principal and solo roles from the classical repertoire. Mr. Webre has sat on the boards of Dance/USA, the Cultural Alliance of Greater Washington and Dance Metro DC's Advisory Committee. Among his many awards, Webre received the DC Mayor's Arts Award for Visionary Leadership, Excellence in Artistic Discipline and numerous metro DC dance awards. He has been a recipient of a number of fellowships for his choreography. He graduated from the University of Texas with a B.A. in history and pre-law.

ABOUT ARTHUR ESPINOZA, JR. (*Managing Director*) Managing Director of The Washington Ballet (TWB) since 2013, he began his tenure with the company in 2010. Before joining TWB, Espinoza served as the Executive Director and Interim Artistic Director of a repertory theatre company. He was the General Manager of Colorado Ballet from 1999-2010. Prior to his tenure there, Espinoza was Executive Director of Canyon Concert Ballet in Fort Collins, Colorado. He has worked with numerous performing arts organizations including Milwaukee Ballet, Central City Opera, Fort Collins Children's Theatre, Opera Fort Collins and OpenStage Theatre and Company. He directed numerous theatrical and musical productions including *The Fantasticks*, *Oliver!*, *1940's Radio Hour* and *Lonely Planet*, the latter of which was selected for presentation in the (Colorado) Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts Gala. Espinoza has served on adjudication panels for grant making committees including the District of Columbia Commission on the Arts and Humanities and Colorado Creative Industries and Colorado Council on the Arts, and he has worked on various festival programming committees including Intersections: A New American Arts Festival in Washington DC. He serves as a trustee of Dance/USA and has served on many boards and councils. He is currently Board Chair of Parasol Arts, a professional tango dance organization. He continues to produce and moderate a high-profile lecture series in Denver that has featured many notable personalities including U.S. President Bill Clinton, Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton, Sir Sidney Poitier, Liberian President Ellen Sirleaf Johnson, Diane Keaton, Linda Ronstadt, Rita Moreno, and primatologist Dr. Jane Goodall, among many others.

For more information, visit washingtonballet.org.

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