

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ballet Hispánico
Presents
Instituto Coreográfico: Showcasing Daniela Urías
with filmmaker Celeste Lanuza
Thursday, May 9, 2024 at 6pm

Ballet Hispánico is thrilled to present ***Instituto Coreográfico: Showcasing choreographer Daniela Urías*** on Thursday, May 9, 2024 at 6pm at Ballet Hispánico, Penthouse Studio, 167 W. 89th Street, NYC. Join us for this FREE event; doors open at 6pm, with a public showing at 6:30pm. Advance registration required, seating is general admission. To register, visit <https://fs18.formsite.com/BalletHispanico/uooawvfwgg/index>.

“Many companies pay lip service to nurturing talent, but Ballet Hispánico has devoted significant resources and care to cultivating emerging Latino artists. The company hosts two choreographers a year at its spacious, light-filled Upper West Side studios. Each gets two weeks with the company’s dancers, as well as advice from a mentor of his or her choosing and input from a panel of directors, choreographers and teachers.”

– Marina Harss, [The New York Times](#)

Step into the world of choreographic genius as Ballet Hispánico unveils the remarkable talent nurtured within its prestigious dance incubator: *Instituto Coreográfico*, or *Choreographic Institute*. In this innovative program, emerging Latino choreographers are mentored and supported by Ballet Hispánico's esteemed panel of directors, choreographers, and teachers. One of Ballet Hispánico's signature programs, *Instituto Coreografico* has served eighteen BIPOC artists from different Latinx countries in fourteen years, resulting in the creation of five new works thus far. The program on May 9 is a public sharing of excerpts from a work-in-progress by emerging Mexican choreographer **Daniela Uríasas**, who was paired with collaborative filmmaker **Celeste Lanuza** to document the process.

Contemporary dancer and choreographer, **Daniela Uríasas** graduated from the Superior School of Music and Dance of Monterrey. She is the creator and performer of dance works such as *HEARTBEAT*, *El Nudo (The Knot)*, *Maslow 3*, and *Segunda Naturaleza (Second Nature)*. Daniela has collaborated with international choreographers, including Miguel Mancillas, Billy Cowie, and Isabelle Schad, as well as with artists from other disciplines, for the creation of performances in art galleries. She has participated in festivals such as FAOT, 4x4 TJ Night, Extremadura Festival, Scenic State Agenda, Onésimo Gonzalez Festival, and National Dance Showcase, among others. Notably, she has been honored as a beneficiary of the State Fund for Culture and the Arts of Sonora and the Scenic Creators Program of FONCA. Currently based in Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico, she remains dedicated to honing her artistic craft and actively engages in collaborative endeavors within the realm of independent projects.

Celeste Lanuza is a bi-coastal LA/NYC performing artist recently nominated as a Fellow awardee Visibility Fellowship by Dance Camera West which includes a dance film year-long mentorship with internationally acclaimed filmmaker Javier de Frutos as well as funding to produce her own film in 2024. Lanuza was also awarded an award titled Dance in the Districts by the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs which granted her funding to produce her own dance film, as well as a public screening with the city. Most recently, she was honored to be chosen by Alaska Airlines as an emerging Latinx female filmmaker to sponsor her screening and Dance on Film event at the San Diego Latino Film Festival 2024. Lanuza has performed as a featured flamenco dancer on the PBS film Fuego and has choreographed for the film "Huella" currently on Amazon Prime which also premiered at Tribeca, Sundance, and Aspen Film Festivals.

About *Instituto Coreográfico*

When Ballet Hispánico emerged onto the dance scene 53 years ago, Latinx artists were conspicuously absent, relegated to the shadows of mainstream recognition. Since its inception, Ballet Hispánico has been a transformative force, reshaping this narrative with resounding impact. Now, across generations, Latinx artists have emerged as vibrant voices, reimagining their cultural heritage through artistry that breathes new life into the Latinx experience. In 2010, under the visionary leadership of Artistic Director & CEO Eduardo Vilaro, Ballet Hispánico embarked on a groundbreaking journey with the launch of the Instituto Coreográfico.

This innovative institute serves as a creative sanctuary, empowering Latinx artists to craft works deeply rooted in their cultural identity within a nurturing environment of dance exploration. Each choreographer in residence is thoughtfully paired with an emerging filmmaker, resulting in a collaborative endeavor that not only documents their creative process but also enriches it with cinematic depth.

Moreover, Instituto Coreográfico extends an open invitation to dance aficionados to engage in a profound cultural exchange during work-in-progress showings, fostering a safe and critical space for dialogue between artists and audiences. Through this transformative platform, Ballet Hispánico remains steadfast in amplifying the voices of emerging artists and democratizing access to the dance-making process for all.

Major funding for Instituto Coreográfico was provided by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, with additional funding from the Mertz Gilmore Foundation.

Ballet Hispánico was founded on the principle that everyone deserves dance, quality dance training and innovative performances. In creating the company in 1970, Tina Ramirez shattered a glass ceiling—challenging iconic representations and exposing the joy and celebration to be found in Latindad. Despite its humble origins, Ballet Hispánico immediately served as a catalyst for people in the Latine/x/Hispanic community, especially for Latino youth, to follow their dreams in the cultural world.

Today, as the largest Latino cultural organization in the United States and one of America's Cultural Treasures, Ballet Hispánico's three main programs, the Company, School of Dance, and Community Arts Partnerships bring together communities to celebrate the ever growing and multifaceted Hispanic diasporas. Ballet Hispánico's New York City headquarters provide the space and cultural heart for Latinx dance in the United States. It is a space that expands on Ramirez's original vision by providing our community the ability to train through dedicated

scholarship opportunities, exceptional dance training, inclusive cultural dialogues, and exemplary performances. No matter their background or identity, Ballet Hispánico welcomes and serves all, breaking stereotypes and celebrating the beauty and diversity of Hispanic cultures through dance.

Eduardo Vilaro joined Ballet Hispánico as a Company dancer in 1985 and became the organization's second Artistic Director in 2009 and CEO in 2015. Vilaro is building on Ramirez's impact: expanding and deepening a legacy of showcasing the depth of our cultures, and exposing the intersectionality found in the Hispanic diasporas by focusing on nurturing Hispanic leaders. Through programs like the Instituto Coreográfico, the Latinx Leaders Summit and Diálogos, Ballet Hispánico has become a center for artistic leadership development. As an immigrant himself, Mr. Vilaro's vision of inclusion and cultural revelation has elevated a community from the margins to its place ingrained at the center of the American cultural landscape.

Ballet Hispánico is an ambassador for our community worldwide. The company has now performed for more than 2.5 million people in three continents and all fifty states. Our company engages audiences with the work of Latino and Latina choreographers, opens a platform for new cultural dialogue and nurtures inspiring young dancers of all ages. Through its exemplary artistry, Ballet Hispánico champions and amplifies the Latin American experience in the field. As it looks to the future, Ballet Hispánico is committed to continue nurturing artists, teachers, students, arts leaders, families and communities through the power of dance.

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