



Ballet
Hispánico

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Diálogos

AT STONEWALL

DIGITAL PROGRAM



Thursday, September 22, 5:30-8:30 PM
The Stonewall Inn

In Partnership With



Sponsored By





Ballet Hispánico, America's leading Latino dance organization, has been bringing individuals and communities together to celebrate and explore Latino cultures through dance for nearly 50 years. Whether dancing on stage, in school, or in the street, Ballet Hispánico creates a space where few institutions are breaking ground. The organization's founder, National Medal of Arts recipient Tina Ramirez, sought to give voice to the Hispanic experience and break through stereotypes. Today, Ballet Hispánico is led by Eduardo Vilaro, an acclaimed choreographer and former member of the Company, whose vision of social equity, cultural identity, and quality arts education for all drives its programs. Ballet Hispánico, a role model in and for the Latino community, is inspiring creativity and social awareness in our neighborhoods and across the country by providing access to arts education.



Committed to saving the lives of LGBTQ+ young people, in 2002 Carl Siciliano founded the Ali Forney Center (AFC) in memory of Ali Forney. Since AFC's launch with just six beds in a church basement, the organization has grown to become the largest agency dedicated to LGBTQ+ homeless youths in the country – assisting over 2,000 youths per year through a 24-hour Drop-In Center which provides over 70,000 meals annually, medical and mental health services through an on-site clinic, and a scattered-site housing program.



The Stonewall Inn Gives Back Initiative

The Stonewall Inn Gives Back Initiative (SIGBI) is the official charitable giving organization of the historic Stonewall Inn, the birthplace of the modern gay rights movement and centerpiece of one of the United State's newest national monuments.



Catalytic funding and partnership for Ballet Hispánico's Latinx Dance Institute, including Diálogos, is provided by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, who shares Ballet Hispánico's deep commitment to elevating the voices of Latinx leadership.

PANELISTS

EDUARDO VILARO



EDUARDO VILARO joined Ballet Hispánico as Artistic Director in August 2009, becoming only the second person to head the company since it was founded in 1970. In 2015, Vilario took on the additional role of Chief Executive Officer of Ballet Hispánico. He has been part of the Ballet Hispánico family since 1985 as a dancer and educator, after which he began a ten-year record of achievement as founder and Artistic Director of Luna Negra Dance Theater in Chicago. Vilario has infused Ballet Hispánico's legacy with a bold and eclectic brand of contemporary dance that reflects America's changing cultural landscape. Born in Cuba and raised in New York from the age of six, he is a frequent speaker on the merits of cultural diversity and dance education. Vilario's own choreography is devoted to capturing the spiritual, sensual, and historical essence of Latino cultures. He created over 20 ballets for Luna Negra and has received commissions from the Ravinia Festival, the Chicago Sinfonietta, the Grant Park Festival, the Lexington Ballet, and the Chicago Symphony. In 2001, he was a recipient of a Ruth Page Award for choreography, and in 2003, he was honored for his choreographic work at Panama's II International Festival of Ballet. Vilario was inducted into the Bronx Walk of Fame in 2016 and was awarded HOMBRE Magazine's 2017 Arts & Culture Trailblazer of the Year. In 2019, Vilario was the recipient of the West Side Spirit's WESTY Award, was honored by WNET for his contributions to the arts, and most recently, was the recipient of the James W. Dodge Foreign Language Advocate Award.

SERGIO TRUJILLO



Internationally renowned theater choreographer, director and producer, SERGIO TRUJILLO is the first ever Latinx recipient of the Tony Award for Best Choreography in 2019 for *Ain't Too Proud - The Life and Times of The Temptations*. Since then, he has made it a personal mission to create and develop stories about the Latinx community and is doing so currently on several projects with 100% Latinx creative teams including stage musical adaptations of *Real Women Have Curves*, *Lives in Limbo* and *Waiting for Snow in Havana*. Additionally, Trujillo won the Olivier Award in 2015 for Best Theatre Choreographer for *Memphis*. He was previously nominated for several awards including a Tony Award for *On Your Feet!*, multiple Drama Desk Awards for *Hands on a Hardbody*, *Leap of Faith*, *Memphis*, and *Jersey Boys*, a Lucille Lortel Award nomination for *Saved*, and won an Ovation Award for *Empire*. He is a two-time Emmy nominee for Outstanding Choreography for NBC's *Christmas in Rockefeller Center* and *Annie Live*, respectively.

SAM RATELLE



SAM RATELLE is an internationally recognized artist operating as a Director, Writer, Designer, and the Co-founder / Chief Creative Officer of RRR Creative (Triple R), a progressive production company and agency based in Manhattan. He brings with him a unique perspective, style, and vision with a formidable background in producing, directing, marketing, communications and LGBTQ advertising and initiatives. Ratelle's roster includes some of the world's most celebrated brands and talent including Bergdorf Goodman, Saks Fifth Avenue, Disney, Tiffany & Co., Coach, Montblanc, Jimmy Choo, Clorox, Swarovski, Johnson & Johnson, Club Monaco, Warner Media, Paramount Studios, FX Networks, ABC Network, HBO, PEN America and many more. Of note, Ratelle is regarded as a progressive pioneer in gender fluid costume design and fashion direction as well as a Director for fashion editorials, advertising and theatrical experiences. Ratelle's iconic visual and theatrical experiences took place at a multitude of events including The Academy Awards, The Emmys, The Golden Globes, The Grammys, The Critics Choice Awards, The Peabody Awards and The Tonys - moments that resounded throughout the world splashing across newspapers, magazines, television and the internet. Vogue Magazine heralded Ratelle for creating "the most fabulous entrance in Met Gala history" and in 2019 he was recognized by The Hollywood Reporter as one of four "Rising Hollywood Stylists to Watch." Ratelle's works are engaged in current and upcoming exhibits around the world at reputable institutions including the Victoria and Albert Museum, Kensington Palace, The Australian Centre for the Moving Image and the much anticipated Museum of Broadway located in the Times Square district of New York City.

PANELISTS

JASON RODRIGUEZ



JASON ANTHONY RODRIGUEZ is a Dominican-American actor/dancer. He is born and raised from Washington Heights in New York City. He went to SUNY Purchase where he received a BA in Arts Management while also studying dance. Later on, Rodriguez found vogue through Benny Ninja and began training under him. He was also mentored by Dorit Koppel and Kevin Wynn. He trained in acting at The Susan Batson Studio and was a Series Regular in Ryan Murphy's Emmy® and Golden Globe®-nominated series Pose as "Lamar". He was Movement Coach for all 3 seasons of Pose. Rodriguez has guest-starred on the Season Finale of The Deuce on HBO as "Enrico" and has been featured in The New York Times 5 times by Siobhan Burke, Gia Kourlas and Illise S. Carter. "Mr. Rodriguez is a subtle scene stealer as Lamar on the FX show "Pose," as quoted by Gia Kourlas from The New York Times. Rodriguez has taught vogue in various institutions throughout the states and internationally in Dominican Republic, Vienna and Japan. He recently co-founded Arraygency, which supports in managing BIPOC Queer & Trans folks and brings them to the forefront of all creative industries.

ANGELICA TORRES



ANGELICA TORRES is a passionate and driven LGBT+ activist, actress and model hailing from New York City. Torres is a proud alumna of the nation's first fully accredited LGBTQIA+ high school, The Harvey Milk High School. She now sits on the board of directors for the Stonewall Inn Gives Back Initiative. Torres has appeared on several television shows and networks such as The Oprah Winfrey Show, MSNBC, America's Next Top Model and most recently Pose Season 2 & 3 on FX. She has made it her mission to further educate the world on the issues that plague the LGBTQIA+ community, with a focus on issues that effect trans women of color and other marginalized groups.

DRE TORRES



DRE TORRES is an Internationally Acclaimed Performer, Educator and Choreographer who received a Bachelor of Science in American Dance Pedagogy and Minor in Business Entrepreneurship at Oklahoma City University. Career highlights include Comedy Central, Radio City Music Hall, The Joyce Theatre, FOX, BBC London, The Capezio A.C.E. Awards, PBS and Harvard University. Torres has been on faculty with Broadway Dance Center, Pineapple Dance Studios, Riff Dallas Tap Festival, DansEncore International Dance Festival, Soul to Sole Tap Festival, London Tap Dance Intensive, Dupree Dance Convention to name a few. For five seasons, Torres was a Principal Dancer with Tapestry Dance Company under the direction of Acia Gray. Torres then premiered OSCiLLATE', which she co-choreographed on a London-based tap dance company. This show premiered at the renowned Sadler's Wells Theatre in London, and went on to tour venues including The Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Latitude Music Festival, and Shanghai's Xintiandi Festival. After performing at the Joyce Theater with Bessie Award winning production: Ayodele Casel and 7 Time Grammy Award winning artist Arturo O'Farrill, Torres performed at New York City Center for Fall for Dance and most recently worked on the Tap Choreography under Ayodele Casel for the Broadway show Funny Girl. Currently, Dre Torres is an Artist in Residence for a Youth Pre-Professional Tap Dance program and looks forward to new exciting projects with this incredible Art Form that is Tap Dance.

MODERATOR

TAMIA BLACKMAN SANTANA



TAMIA B. SANTANA is the Chief Engagement and Inclusion Officer at Ballet Hispánico. She currently oversees the Community Arts Partnership, CAP, at Ballet Hispánico, which includes Department of Education In School Residencies, after-school CASA programs, live and virtual engagements, CAP on tour nationally and internationally engagements, and the Latinx Dance Institute. The Latinx Dance institute brings innovation to the Instituto Coreográfico, Latinx Dance Leaders Summit and Diálogos. Previously, Santana was Executive Director of the Brooklyn Dance Festival, owner of Jete Dance Center, Resident Dance Director of the Brooklyn Museum, Co-Founder and Executive Producer of the Tap Family Reunion Festival, and producer and Steering committee member of the televised Bessie's New York Dance and Performance Awards. Born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, Santana now raises her own family there. As a prominent concert dance and performance producer, Santana has executive produced and directed concerts and events at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, the Alvin Ailey Theater, Summer Stage, and The Schomburg Center Barclay's Center, as well as for music artists such as Big Daddy Kane, Thomas Piper, and more. Her previous experience as a dancer has been performing at Madison Square Garden, Carnegie Hall, The Apollo Theater, Lincoln Center, and Europe.

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