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Ballet Hispanico performances at Mesa Arts Center to be featured in *Lincoln Center at the Movies: Great American Dance Series*

Wednesday and Friday, September 16 and 18, 7:30 p.m.

For immediate release:

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Mesa, AZ – Ballet Hispanico, recognized as America’s leading Latino dance organization since 1970, will perform in Mesa Arts Center’s Ikeda Theater on September 16 and 18, at 7:30 p.m. The company’s performances at Mesa Arts Center will be taped for *Lincoln Center at the Movies: Great American Dance Series*, a new cinema series partnership between Lincoln Center and Fathom Events that features four American dance companies. Ballet Hispanico is coming to more than

600 movie screens nationally on November 12 at 7 pm.

“The Latin-American experience at last has a voice.” –*The New York Times*. Tickets to the performances are on sale now and are available at mesaartscenter.com or by calling 480-644-6500.

The dance concerts will include Ballet Hispanico’s first performance outside of their NYC season of *CARMEN.maquia*, choreographer Gustavo Ramirez Sansno’s physically charged and sensual contemporary dance with nods to the Spanish paso doble and flamenco. In the dance piece *Club Havana*, the intoxicating rhythms of the conga, rumba, mambo, and cha cha are brought to life by choreographer Pedro Ruiz.

Prior to the ticketed performances, Ballet Hispanico will lead free-to-the-public lessons in Latin social dance at Mesa Arts Center’s Latin Street Party Season Kickoff Festival on Friday, September 11, 6 – 11 p.m. For this event, Ballet Hispanico will train students from Mesa Community College (MCC) to participate in the dancing lessons, and dancers from Ballet Hispanico and MCC will demonstrate and teach Salsa, Bachata, and Meringue.

While in Mesa, Ballet Hispanico will also deliver engagement opportunities in the community, and on September 17, the company will perform a Young People’s concert for area school-age children. For more information, contact engagement@mesaartscenter.com.

Since its inception, Ballet Hispanico's contemporary repertory has reflected the ever-changing diversity of Latino culture, showcased masterfully by some of "the most technically accomplished and musical dancers you'll find in the contemporary sphere" (*The Washington Post*).

Lincoln Center at the Movies: Great American Dance presentations are filmed in HD by the multi-Emy Award-winning team responsible for *Live From Lincoln Center* broadcasts on PBS, Andrew C. Wilk, Executive Producer. Each screening will include extra features such as interviews with the companies' principal dancers, and informative segments that will provide an inside look at the productions. *Lincoln Center at the Movies* will bring the best of the performing arts to national audiences through Fathom's extensive network of movie theaters and will focus on the different art forms on Lincoln Center's campus. For more information visit LincolnCenterattheMovies.org.

Mesa Arts Center is located at One East Main Street in downtown Mesa.

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About Mesa Arts Center

The Mesa Arts Center mission is to inspire people through engaging arts experiences that are diverse, accessible, and relevant. Owned and operated by the City of Mesa, Arizona's largest arts center is recognized as an international award-winning venue. The unique and architecturally stunning facility is home to four theaters, five art galleries, and 14 art studios and an artist cooperative gallery. For more information, visit mesaartscenter.com.

About Ballet Hispanico

Since its inception in 1970, Ballet Hispanico's contemporary repertory has reflected the ever-changing diversity of Latino cultures. Led by Artistic Director Eduardo Vilaro, the Company's multifaceted performances have featured renowned works by artists such as Nacho Duato, cutting-edge premieres by Cayetano Soto and Annabelle Lopez Ochoa, and live music accompaniment by Latin legends such as Paquito D'Rivera. The Company has performed for an audience of nearly 3 million, throughout 11 countries, on 3 continents.

Editor's Note: Images are available for download via Mesa Arts Center's online Press Room at <http://www.mesaartscenter.com/index.php/misc/about/press-room/login>. Password is macmedia.