

Dance Works

Dance Making By, Of, and About the Latinx Diaspora

Updated 9.26.21

Title:	Asuka
Choreographer:	Eduardo Vilaro
About the Work:	Asuka is a celebration of the music of Celia Cruz through the lens of the Latino experience. Cruz, renowned as the "Queen of Salsa," captured the heart of Latinos the world over and became a symbol of perseverance for many. Through rich imagery and humor, Eduardo Vilaro explores the struggles of departure from one's homeland and the exuberance of success experienced by a community.

Title:	Aguinaldo, La Noche Buena (The Good Night)
Choreographer:	Sandra Rivera
About the Work:	Amidst a Christmas Eve celebration memories of past lives, of things left behind are recalled. Within each story contemporary dances emerge of loss- loss of land, life and livelihoods. Drawing from the jibaro tradition, aguinaldos are sung and the roots of salsa explored.

Title:	Bailes del Pueblo
Choreographer:	Sandra Rivera
About the Work:	A collection of dances developed throughout a 20 year period that celebrates Latinx culture. Designed for children and intergenerational populations.

Title:	Barrio Girl, A Life Through Dance
Choreographer:	Sandra Rivera
About the Work:	Targeted to a family audience, this 60-minute presentation is an autobiographical depiction of a Puerto Rican girl growing up in El Barrio

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	with the dream of becoming a professional dancer. Using Spanish/flamenco and Puerto Rican folk dance with songs and text, she explores the life of a dancer, role models, cultural awareness, and the realization of a dream.
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Title:	Club Havana
Choreographer:	Pedro Ruiz
About the Work:	Latin dancing at its best. The intoxicating rhythms of the conga, rumba, mambo, and cha cha are brought to life by choreographer Pedro Ruiz, himself a native of Cuba, as he imagined his very own “Club Havana.”

Title:	Compass
Choreographer:	Sandra Rivera
About the Work:	Compass is a collage of solo dances that juxtaposes the flamenco idiom with a montage of diverse Latino histories. The <i>compás</i> , the repetitive rhythmic pattern that guides flamenco, is heard throughout in the music score, accompanied by a text drawn from personal and historical sources.

Title:	Con Brazos Abiertos
Choreographer:	Michelle Manzanales
About the Work:	<i>Con Brazos Abiertos</i> (2017) is a fun and frank look at life caught between two cultures. Michelle Manzanales utilizes iconic Mexican symbols that she was reluctant to embrace as a Mexican American child growing up in Texas, to speak to the immigrant experience. Intertwining folkloric representations with humor and music that ranges from Julio Iglesias to Rock en Español, the work brings life to a Chicana experience.

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Title:	<u>DANIEL</u>
Choreographer:	<u>Omar Román de Jesús</u>
About the Work:	This contemporary piece is inspired by an eye opening interaction during educational outreach activities working with young children on the Autism spectrum. The work explores the youthful and uninhibited pursuit of joy.

Title:	<u>EL SUEÑO</u>
Director/Choreographer, Filmmaker/Dancer:	<u>Alicia Mullikin</u> and <u>Devin Muñoz</u>
About the Work:	<p><i>EL SUEÑO</i> is a contemporary dance film created in collaboration by two Mexican-American dance artists. Director/Choreographer Alicia Mullikin and Filmmaker/Dancer Devin Muñoz delicately weave ancient and contemporary narratives into the work to bring the experiences of women of color to the forefront. <i>EL SUEÑO</i> meaning the dream, captures what it means to be the recipient of the American Dream generations in the making. The work provides a physical space for the collaborators to explore what it means to be powerful brown women, to hold multitudes of pain and joy within one body, and to be the narrators and illustrators of their own stories. <i>EL SUEÑO</i> is created by and for women of color and seeks to honor the many brown women that have risked it all for the next generation of dreamers. <i>EL SUEÑO</i> actively weaponizes contemporary dance against cultural erasure and systematically deconstructs harmful narratives about brown bodies in hopes of working towards cultural restoration and healing for brown communities.</p>

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Title:	Guajira
Choreographer:	Pedro Ruiz
About the Work:	<p>“Guajira” is the first full length piece that Pedro Ruiz created for Ballet Hispánico. His inspiration for making this ballet is based on his childhood memories in Cuba, when his grandfather taught him to love the land and what it represented to the Guajiro- the people who cultivate the land, plant, and harvest. As a child, Ruiz planted tobacco, sugar, and tomatoes on the plantations. This work represents a “Guateque”. The laborers have a celebration at the end of their workday, dancing with increasing speed and abandon to a percussive and vocal score.</p>

Title:	Los Perros del Barrio Colosal
Choreographer:	Omar Román de Jesús
About the Work:	<p>Through the exaggerated mannerisms of daytime television, the six characters of <i>Los Perros del Barrio Colosal</i> take us on a wild romp through the challenges of creative decision making. Diving dramatically into the adventure of an imagination yet to be physicalized, they ask us to consider the far side of the moments when our ideas threaten, with disjointed urgency, to swallow us whole.</p>

Title:	Los Seis
Choreographer:	Sandra Rivera
About the Work:	<p>An interpretation of the 13th century Spanish liturgical dance. Originally commissioned by the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, NYC.</p>

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Title:	<u>Mestiza Consciousness - A film by Kiri Avelar</u>
Creative Director & Filmmaker:	<u>Kiri Avelar</u>
About the Work:	<p><i>Mestiza Consciousness</i> (2019) is an interactive screendance that explores the intersection of the body, food, cultura, rhythm, and labor, considering gestures, symbols, and sounds that speak to the in-between space, and is inspired by the work of Chicana feminist scholar, Gloria Anzaldúa, and Mexican American dance artists Franchesca Marisol Cabrera and Michelle Manzanales. This screendance premiered at El Barrio's Artspace PS109 on April 13, 2019 as part of <i>Descubrimiento: Voice, Place, Identity</i>.</p>

Title:	<u>Mi baile en casa - A film by Kiri Avelar</u>
Creative Director, Choreographer & Filmmaker:	<u>Kiri Avelar</u>
About the Work:	<p><i>Mi baile en casa</i> (2020) depicts the central place of home in our dance experiences, and how this has held an ever-growing, more familiar space for many children to express themselves throughout the pandemic. This screendance was filmed remotely throughout the early phases of COVID-19 and is reflective of the space that the 11-year-old dance student, Ruby Castillo, resided in during this time. Commissioned by Ballet Hispánico for Noche Unidos, a virtual fundraiser, the film premiered on June 30, 2020 and is dedicated to all of the <i>niñas poderosas</i>.</p>

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Title:	Nativo. Inmigrante. Humano.
Choreographer:	Cynthia Garcia
About the Work:	<i>Nativo. Inmigrante. Humano.</i> Was presented at the Bailando Dance Festival Gala Performance (A&M Corpus Christi) Fall 2016.

Title:	Otra Vez, Otra Vez, Otra Vez
Choreographer:	Stephanie Martinez
About the Work:	<i>Otra Vez, Otra Vez, Otra Vez</i> is loosely based on Picasso's painting of The Old Guitarist. Some believe this painting is autobiographical. What if Picasso came out of the photo himself? What would he reveal to us that the painting alone cannot share? This work explores the various unknown stories happening in the lives around us, in all their color and complexity.

Title:	Paloma Querida
Choreographer:	Michelle Manzanales
About the Work:	<i>Paloma Querida</i> , a contemporary dance homage to Frida Kahlo, has been hailed a "visual masterpiece" by the Chicago Tribune and described by the Chicago Sun-Times as a "gorgeously designed, richly hallucinatory, multi-faceted vision of the artist."

Title:	Para Tina Ramirez
Choreographer:	Sandra Rivera
About the Work:	A dance of dedication and celebration of Spanish dance as it was practiced at the Tina Ramirez School of Spanish Dance. It recalls the variety of Spanish dance forms the school taught. The choreography becomes an occasion for the remembrance, a vivid recall of the variety

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	of Spanish dance forms that were a hallmark of the school. The steady, vertical <i>pasdobles</i> , joyful regional dance of <i>la jota</i> , beloved <i>sevillanas</i> and <i>fandangos</i> , the classicism of the <i>escuela bolera</i> in the centuries old, <i>panaderos</i> . Set to the iconic Asturias by Isaac Albéniz.
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Title:	Path of the Artist, An Homage to Julia de Burgos
Choreographer:	Sandra Rivera
About the Work:	A program exploring the life of the artist. The program includes a reading of poetry, guest musician and company of dancers.

Title:	Querida Herida
Choreographer:	Rosie Herrera
About the Work:	A dark and absurdist romantic comedy, <i>Querida Herida</i> , which translates to Beloved Wound, is a 2018 collaboration between the Limon Dance Company and Rosie Herrera. Set to a series of nostalgic Spanish ballads, this women's trio features costumes by Project Runway finalist and esteemed dancer and costume designer Bradon McDonald. “Several zips and unzips later, the protagonists of <i>Querida Herida</i> are battling ferociously, stabbing each other with their hands, while José Feliciano croons and sobs, singing that he wants “to bleed, drop by drop, the poison of your love.....” -Robert Johnson, Dance Entusiast.com

Title:	Quienes somos
Creative Director & Filmmaker:	Kiri Avelar
About the Work:	<i>Quienes somos</i> (2019) explores the bi-cultural identities of 6 student-artists of El Paso Community College residing in the borderlands

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	of El Paso, TX and Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua, Mexico as they enter adulthood. Commissioned by El Paso Community College, this screendance was created in collaboration with the students, and premiered on December 10, 2019 in El Paso, TX at the Transmountain Campus.
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Title:	Ruido - A film by Kiri Avelar
Creative Director & Filmmaker:	Kiri Avelar
About the Work:	<p><i>Ruido</i> (2019) looks at the body as voice, and the concept of the body in action as ruido. Inspired by the life and work of Boricua Spanish Dance Artist, Sandra Rivera, and the multifaceted nature of Spanish Dance, the castanets represent the connection in diaspora to our colonial heritage, a way of recuperating our inherited cultural practices, crossing the space between our identities in America, and the “other side” of the border. This screendance premiered as part of Descubrimiento: Voice, Place, Identity on April 13, 2019 at El Barrio’s Artspace PS109 in East Harlem, NYC.</p>

Title:	Saeta
Choreographer:	Sandra Rivera
About the Work:	A flamenco-based lamentation depicting the women present at the Crucifixion. <i>Saeta</i> draws its title from the heart piercing chants sung during Holy Week all across Spain. Conceived and choreographed by Sandra Rivera with additional choreography by Melinda Marquez.

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Title:	<u>Tio Metro</u>
Multimedia Artist:	<u>Jose Richard Aviles</u>
About the Work:	<p><i>Tio Metro</i> unfolds in front of a bus stop along the 204 bus route; transforming public space into a site of engagement through dance & performance.</p>

Title:	<u>Valentina</u>
Choreographers:	<u>Andrea Guajardo, Martin Rodriguez</u>
About the Work:	<p>Ballet Nepantla presents <i>Valentina</i>: a collection of stories that speak to the strength and resilience of women during Revolutionary Mexico. By fusing contemporary ballet with traditional Mexican folklorico, <i>Valentina</i> tells stories of wealth and power, hope and despair, struggle and loss, and triumph.</p>

Title:	<u>Vientos Internos</u>
Choreographer:	<u>Joel Valentín-Martínez</u>
About the Work:	<p>This work celebrates the choreographer's Mexican-Spanish family heritage, and at the same time pays homage to all the women close to him. The compositions are about finding yourself in situations that are sometimes beyond one's control, it is about how at times one feels defeated, but occasionally finding strength through the examples of others. Finding strength through memories gracefully passed down from one generation to the other.</p>

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Title:	Zemi 1, Zemi 2
Choreographer:	<u>Sandra Rivera</u>
About the Work:	A set of dances that explores the indigenous people of the Caribbean, the Taino. The dances reflect the belief that life forces reside in nature and cosmological entities, represented by sacred objects known as <i>zemis</i> . To recall them unleashes the power they possess. In the present moment <i>Zemi 2</i> recalls the devastating consequences of Hurricane Maria.