

Media Release

HUGO MEDRANO, PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Our 45th Anniversary Season!

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FUEGO FLAMENCO XVI Goes 'Virtual'

Fiery Dancers. Masterful Musicians. Powerful Singers
16th Annual Flamenco Festival at GALA
With world renown artists deeply rooted in flamenco tradition
Streaming from December 16 through January 15

Washington, D.C. – Although the artists were rehearsed and ready for public performances, GALA Hispanic Theatre has canceled the live performances of the festival in accordance with the order of the Mayor of the District of Columbia that apply to live performances. In response to requests from our patrons and in the spirit of the “the show must go on”, GALA will stream the **16th Annual International Flamenco Festival, FUEGO FLAMENCO**, and continue the annual celebration of flamenco. Recognized for its stellar performances in an intimate *tablaó* setting and world acclaimed artists, the virtual festival runs from **December 16, 2020 through January 15, 2021**.

Fuego Flamenco XVI, with Honorary Producers Lynne and Joseph Horning, is an exploration of traditional flamenco and its breadth and diversity through contemporary expressions. This year’s program unites two leading international flamenco dancers to restage **ÍNTIMO**, which premiered at GALA in 2005 to national acclaim and toured to Philadelphia, Chicago, Pittsburgh, and Portland, OR.

Co-directed and performed by **Edwin Aparicio** and **Omayra Amaya**, with co-musical direction by **Roberto Castellón** and **Ricardo Marlow**, **ÍNTIMO** explores the essence of flamenco –the synergy and interdependence of music, rhythm, and movement, as well as the special connection created among dancers. “This period of self-isolation necessary to fight the spread of the deadly COVID-19 virus is the perfect time to explore the basic human need to connect with others and the healing power of a simple touch,” states Hugo Medrano, GALA co-founder and producing artistic director.

Fuego Flamenco Festival XVI is made possible with generous support from Lynne and Joseph Horning, the Embassy of Spain in Washington, DC, Spain Arts & Culture, and the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities.

THE ARTISTS

Edwin Aparicio is one of the most sought-after flamenco performers, instructors and choreographers in the United States and Latin America. He trained with world renowned flamenco artists Tomás de Madrid and La Tati and debuted at the legendary Casa Patas in Madrid in 2001. He has appeared as a soloist throughout the United States with ensembles such as the José Greco Spanish Dance Company; and shared the stage with such internationally celebrated artists as Elena Andújar, Carmela Greco, Pastora Galván, La Tati, Ana Martinez, and José Luis Rodríguez. Mr. Aparicio is on the faculty of the Washington School of Ballet; was named one of “25 Dancers to Watch” by Dance Magazine in 2009; and received a 2012 Protagonista Award from GALA for his artistic achievements and contributions to the Latino community, and the Cross of the Order of Civil Merit, bestowed by the King Felipe VI of Spain in 2015. He is the founder and artistic director of the Flamenco Aparicio Dance Company and curator of the Fuego Flamenco Festival.

Omayra Amaya is a modern flamenco dancer and choreographer deeply rooted in proud gypsy traditions. The daughter of flamenco dancers Olga and Curro Amaya and grandniece of the legendary Carmen Amaya, Omayra brings new relevance to flamenco while never losing sight of her legacy. She founded the Omayra Amaya Dance Company in 1994 in Boston, MA and is now based in New York City and Miami, Florida and serves as its artistic director. It seeks to cultivate, foster, and support the development, appreciation and love of this deeply rooted art form through performance, education and presence in the community. The Company has appeared in venues throughout the United States and at the Shanghai Theater Center to great critical acclaim.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets to the online Flamenco performance of **ÍNTIMO** are \$25 and are available on www.galathetre.org. Patrons will receive an email within 48 hours after purchasing their tickets with a unique link to watch the show.



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