

THE EGG PRESENTS

BALLET HISPÁNICO NEW YORK

March 20, 2026, 7pm
The Egg, Albany, NY



Ballet Hispánico New York

Albany, NY – Performance: March 20, 2026

Crediting and Cast Information - **SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

CARMEN.maquia

World Premiere: 2012, Luna Negra Dance Theater

Premiere: 2014, Ballet Hispánico

Choreography by Gustavo Ramírez Sansano

Music from Various works by Georges Bizet, performed by the Slovak Philharmonic, Praha Philharmonic, and the Arte Ensemble. Carmen Fantasy, by Pablo de Sarasate, performed by the Apollo Symphony Orchestra

Set Design and Construction by Luis Crespo

Costume Design by David Delfín

Lighting Design by Emilio Lavarías

CASTING

Carmen

Amanda Ostuni

Don José

Amir J. Baldwin

Escamillo

Dylan Dias McIntyre

Micaela

Francesca Levita

Ballet Hispánico

The Company

Founder

Tina Ramirez

Artistic Director & CEO

Eduardo Vilaro

Rehearsal Director

Anitra Keegan

Rehearsal Director

Nicole Duffy

Chief Managing Director

Patrick Muhlen

The Company

Amanda Bacallao, Amir J. Baldwin, Mia Bermudez, Thierry Blannchard, Maya Canestaro, Antonio Cangiano, Francesca Levita, Matthew Mancuso, Dylan Dias McIntyre, Andrea Mish, Kevin Ortiz Lemus, Amanda Ostuni, Daniel Palladino, and Olivia Winston

Company Manager

Karl Rader Watson

Production Director

Aholibama Castañeda González

Wardrobe Director

Andrea Mejuto

Lighting Supervisor

Dominick Riches

Stage Manager

Chloe Marie Lupini

Transformational funding for Ballet Hispánico is generously provided by MacKenzie Scott, the Ford Foundation, The Mellon Foundation, and the Jerome L. Greene Foundation. Major support is provided by the Howard Gilman Foundation, the Shubert Foundation, Warner Music Group & Blavatnik Family Foundation Social Justice Fund, a sponsored project of Moore Impact, the Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation, the Tatiana Plankova Foundation, and the Mosaic Network and Fund in The New York Community Trust.

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Ballet Hispánico is grateful to Artistic Sponsor Andrew Martin Weber for generously supporting the restaging of *CARMEN.maquia*.

MetLife Foundation is the Official Tour Sponsor of Ballet Hispánico.

CARMEN.maquia

Since her debut in 1875, Carmen, the titular character from Bizet's opera, has become a timeless cultural icon, inspiring generations of composers, choreographers, and writers to attempt to capture her elusive and alluring nature. Ballet Hispánico honors the powerful Spanish leading lady with Gustavo Ramirez Sansano's electrifying CARMEN.maquia. One of today's most sought-after choreographers, Sansano's quintessential ballet invigorates this timeless tale with an unrelenting energy that leaves you breathless. Highly original and full of explosive movement, CARMEN.maquia is a bold reimagining of this tragic tale.

Cover Photography by Laura Fuchs

CARMEN.maquia Synopsis

Prelude

A solitary figure emerges in silence. It's Don José. Imprisoned in both body and soul, he relives the aftermath of a fatal passion. As he paces the dim cell of his conscience, Carmen appears—not in flesh, but in memory, in ache. The past is inescapable.

Act I

The Factory Floor

Outside the cigarette factory, the Cigarreras spill into the light, their chatter mixing with the haze of tobacco and fatigue. Guards linger, dozing and joking. Don José arrives, a figure of rigid order, shattering their ease. A soldier among dancers.

The Habanera

A changing of the guard—and the air shifts. Carmen, irresistible and indifferent, catches sight of Don José. She dances. What begins as flirtation becomes doctrine: her creed of freedom, love without chains. The onlookers are caught in her gravity. So is he.

The Letter

Micaela arrives—prim, dutiful, and bearing a letter from Don José's mother. The contents call him home, to honor, to marriage, to a quieter fate. He reads, torn between the woman he was promised and the woman he cannot forget.

The Fracture

Tensions boil over within the factory walls. A violent altercation erupts—Carmen at its center. Though the fault is unclear, she is blamed. Don José, following protocol, arrests her. But on the road to jail, seduction triumphs over duty. She escapes. He is punished.

The Cell

Now incarcerated, Don José slips into visions. Carmen multiplies around him, dancing through his fevered imagination.

The Streets

Carmen and her friends stroll through town, trailed by desire. Soldiers vie for her attention, she creates a tornado of arguments, gossip and debauchery. But her mind drifts to Don José and the handkerchief she stole from him. She fingers his handkerchief and admits—perhaps, against instinct—that she may have loved him.

The Arrival

Escamillo, the celebrated toreador, makes a triumphant entrance. The crowd swells with admiration—Carmen included. Their flirtation is theatrical but layered with curiosity. He leaves; confident she will follow. She stays, uncertain if she already belongs to someone else.

The Return

Don José is freed. Carmen runs to him. For a moment, all is bliss. But when military orders intrude, Don José hesitates. Carmen is incensed. She demands devotion without question. He abandons duty—for her

Act II

The Mountains

Micaela ventures into the mountains in search of Don José. She finds him amidst a band of gypsies—Carmen among them. Escamillo returns and resumes his courtship. Carmen yields, if only for a moment. Don José watches. Something breaks.

The Cards

The Cigarerras sit in a loose circle, giggling as they pull cards and tell one another's fortunes. Then Carmen arrives. She says nothing—only lets out a sharp, serpentine hiss. The sound cuts through the air. In an instant, the group scatters. Alone now, Carmen claims the deck. She draws death. Separation. Finality. She shudders but shrugs it off. Her freedom remains a louder voice than fear.

The Duel

Escamillo and Don José cross paths. Tensions rise. Words are thrown like knives. Blows follow. Carmen is the ghost that haunts them both. No victor emerges—only wounded pride.

The Revelation

Micaela finds Don José again. She pleads for a return to the life they planned. But Don José is haunted—by Carmen, his choices, and his undoing. Micaela reveals the final blow: Carmen has chosen Escamillo. The truth ignites something fatal.

The Wedding

Escamillo calls everyone to gather and celebrate his triumphant wedding to Carmen. Joy hums through the crowd. Then, Don José appears. The celebration stills and the atmosphere tightens. Don José confronts Carmen. “You are mine,” he says. Carmen stands her ground. “I’ve moved on.” What follows is not a quarrel, but a reckoning. He lunges. She resists. And then—it happens. Carmen falls fatally struck. What he could not possess, he has destroyed. Love has turned to violence, and desire to ruin.

Eduardo Vilaro, Artistic Director & CEO

Eduardo Vilaro is the Artistic Director & CEO of Ballet Hispánico New York. He was named the Artistic Director in 2009, becoming only the second person to head the company since its founding in 1970. In 2015 was also named Chief Executive Officer. Mr. Vilaro has infused Ballet Hispánico's legacy with a bold brand of contemporary dance that reflects America's changing cultural landscape.

Mr. Vilaro's philosophy of dance stems from a basic belief in the power of the arts to change lives, reflect and impact culture, and strengthen community. He considers dance to be a liberating, non-verbal language through which students, dancers, and audiences of all walks of life and diverse backgrounds can initiate ongoing conversations about the arts, expression, identity, and the meaning of community.

Born in Cuba and raised in New York from the age of six, Mr. Vilaro's own choreography is devoted to capturing the Latin American experience in its totality and diversity, and through its intersectionality with other diasporas. His works are catalysts for new dialogues about what it means to be an American. He has created more than 50 ballets with commissions that include the Ravinia Festival, the Chicago Sinfonietta, the Grant Park Festival, the Lexington Ballet, Chicago Symphony, Muse/ique, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

A Ballet Hispánico dancer and educator from 1988 to 1996, he earned a Master's degree in Interdisciplinary Arts at Columbia College Chicago and then embarked on his own act of advocacy with a ten-year record of achievement as Founder and Artistic Director of Luna Negra Dance Theater in Chicago.

(continued)

The recipient of numerous awards and accolades, Mr. Vilaro received the Ruth Page Award for choreography in 2001, 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, he received the West Side Spirit's WESTY Award, was honored by WNET for his contributions to the arts, and was the recipient of the James W. Dodge Foreign Language Advocate Award. In August 2020, City & State Magazine included Mr. Vilaro in the inaugural Power of Diversity: Latin 100 list. In January 2021, Mr. Vilaro was recognized with a Compassionate Leaders Award, given to leaders who are courageous, contemplative, collaborative, and care about the world they will leave behind. In May of 2024 he was awarded an honorary Doctorate degree from his alma mater, Adelphi University, and been recognized by Crain's New York Business as a Notable Latino Leader and Notable Leader In Philanthropy.

Photography by Stephen K Mack



Gustavo Ramírez Sansano, Choreographer

Gustavo Ramírez Sansano was Artistic Director of Luna Negra Dance Theater (2009-2013), and now he combines his work as a freelance choreographer with the direction of Titoyaya Dansa, the company he founded in Spain with Veronica Garcia Moscardo in 2006. Sansano has received numerous awards for his choreography, including first prize at the Ricard Moragas Competition in Barcelona (1997), Prix Dom Perignon Choreographic Competition in Hamburg (2001), and Premio de Las Artes Escénicas de la Comunidad Valenciana (2005). Sansano has been commissioned to create works for many companies such as Nederlands Dans Theater, Compañía Nacional de Danza, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Luzerner tanz Theater, Ballet BC, The Hamburg Ballet, Atlanta Ballet, Ballet Hispánico, and Luna Negra Dance Theater, among others.

Photo Courtesy of the Artist





BALLET HISPÁNICO 2025-2026 DANCER BIOS

Amanda Bacallao – Dancer – Miami, Florida

Amanda Bacallao, of Cuban descent, is originally from Miami, Florida. She began dancing at the age of four and graduated from Miami Arts Charter School in 2022, where she studied dance under the direction of Diana Ford. Earlier in her career, Amanda also trained at Armour Dance Theater with Rosario Suárez and Mariana Alvarez. Amanda is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Contemporary Dance at the Boston Conservatory at Berklee. During her time at the Boston Conservatory, she has performed works by Ken Ossola, Dwight Rhoden, Gustavo Ramirez Sansano, Cristina Chan, Lydia Zimmer, and Alyssa Cardon. She is also a 2024 alumna of The School at Jacob's Pillow. Additionally, Amanda has completed certification to teach Progressing Ballet Technique. This is Amanda's first season with Ballet Hispánico.

IG: [@amanda_bacallao](https://www.instagram.com/amanda_bacallao)

Amir J. Baldwin – Dancer – Montclair, New Jersey

Amir J. Baldwin, originally from Trenton, NJ, received his BFA in Dance from Montclair State University with a minor in American Sign Language. His dance training consists of an eclectic mix which includes Ballet, Modern, Horton, Jazz, Contemporary, Musical Theatre and Capoeira. He has trained in educational facilities such as Ballet Hispánico, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, and Complexions Contemporary Ballet among others. This is Amir's fourth season with Ballet Hispánico.

Instagram: [@amirjblue](https://www.instagram.com/amirjblue)

Mia Bermudez – Dancer, Montclair, New Jersey

Mia Bermudez, originally from Montclair, NJ, began her dance training at The Ballet Hispánico School's La Academia Pre-Professional Program on a full merit scholarship. While at Ballet Hispánico, Mia performed at the Macy's Thanksgiving Parade and at the Ballet Hispánico Gala. She has trained at numerous intensive programs including the Debbie Allen Dance Academy, La Escuela Nacional de Ballet de Cuba, Canada National Ballet School, and Ballet Hispánico's ChoreoLaB. This is Mia's second season with Ballet Hispánico.



Instagram: [@mia.bermudez_](https://www.instagram.com/mia.bermudez_)

Thierry Blannchard – Dancer – São Paulo, Brasil

Thierry Blannchard, originally from São Paulo, Brazil, began his dance training at the Elizandra Bellotto School. He studied contemporary and character dance, dance history, and pas de deux at the Bolshoi Theater School after being awarded a scholarship. During his time at the Bolshoi Theater School, he had the opportunity to work with the likes of Vladimir Vasiliev, Galina Kravchenko, Dennys Nevidommy, Pedro Carneiro and Rostlav Dzabraev. In 2022, he was awarded a trainee program with Eglevsky Ballet in New York. He has worked with choreographers such as Amy Hall Garner, Cassi Abranches (Grupo Corpo), Kevin Jenkins, Maurice Brandon Curry, Gabrielle Lamb, Valentina Kozlova, among others. This is Thierry's first season with Ballet Hispánico.

Instagram: [@thierryblannchard](https://www.instagram.com/thierryblannchard)

Maya Canestaro – Apprentice – San Antonio, Texas

Maya Canestaro, was born in San Antonio, Texas, and began dancing at the age of four with Filipino folk dance before continuing her training in ballet. She studied at the Ballet Conservatory of South Texas and was accepted at 16 into the University of North Carolina School of the Arts (UNCSA). After graduating from UNCSA, she attended the University of Chicago, where she earned a bachelor's degree in public policy with minors in human rights and philosophy. While in school, she also danced with Ballet Chicago's studio company. Following graduation, Maya joined Kansas City Ballet's second company for two seasons before dancing as an apprentice with Madison Ballet. Her performance highlights include appearing at the Kennedy Center, performing Anabelle Lopez Ochoa's Nube Blanco and Mark Morris's Sandpaper, dancing the Sugar Plum Fairy, and dancing in the corps of Giselle and George Balanchine's Concerto Barocco. Last season, Maya danced in Ballet Hispánico's Pa'lante program. This is Maya's first season with Ballet Hispánico as an apprentice.

Instagram: [@playa_de_la_maya](https://www.instagram.com/playa_de_la_maya)

Antonio Cangiano – Dancer – Naples, Italy



Antonio Cangiano trained on scholarship at the Ateneo Danza, Accademia Normanna and the Martha Graham Dance School in NYC. He has danced for the Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company, Dardo Galletto Dance, Acsi Ballet, and the Martha Graham Dance Company for their 90th Anniversary Season. Antonio has danced works by world-renowned choreographers such as William Forsythe, Nacho Duato, Annabelle Lopez Ochoa, and Gustavo Ramírez Sansano. This is Antonio's seventh season with Ballet Hispánico.

Instagram: [@cangianoanto](https://www.instagram.com/cangianoanto)

Francesca Levita – Dancer – Chicago, IL

Francesca Levita, originally from Chicago, IL, began her training with Visceral Dance Center. She has attended numerous ballet intensives including BalletMet, American Ballet Theatre, and the Milwaukee Ballet. She also trained at The School at Jacob's Pillow Contemporary Summer Intensive, BODYTRAFFIC, and Arts Umbrella. In 2024, Francesca graduated with Honors Summa Cum Laude from Marymount Manhattan College receiving a BFA with a double concentration in Ballet and Modern dance. This is Francesca's second season with Ballet Hispánico.

Instagram: [@frankielevita](https://www.instagram.com/frankielevita)

Matthew Mancuso – Dancer – East Haven, Connecticut

Matthew Mancuso is originally from East Haven, Connecticut. He began his dance training at the age of 8 at Gloria Jean's Studio of Dance under the direction of Stacy Eastman. He also studied at New Haven Ballet under various teachers and choreographers. Matthew went on to further his education at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts where he earned a BFA in Dance and a Minor in Entertainment Business. While at school, Matthew got to learn and perform repertoire from Sidra Bell and Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company. He also was chosen to study abroad in Prague, Czech Republic at The National Theatre. After graduation Matthew joined "Gaspard and Dancers", a contemporary dance company where he traveled to Romania, Armenia, and Tbilisi, Georgia. This is Matthew's first season with Ballet Hispánico.

Instagram: [@matthew_mancuso](https://www.instagram.com/matthew_mancuso)



Dylan Dias McIntyre – Dancer – North Palm Beach, FL

Dylan Dias McIntyre was born in Key West and raised in West Palm Beach, FL. Dylan started dancing at Palm Beach Ballet Center at the age of eight. At sixteen, he became a trainee with Next Generation Ballet and after two years, he joined the Richmond Ballet to complete his training and start his professional career with their second company. In 2019, Dylan joined Ballet Memphis as a company dancer for three seasons and participated in the 2022 season with the Terpsicorps Theatre of Dance. This is Dylan's fourth season with Ballet Hispánico.

Instagram: [@d_mcintyre](#)

Andrea Mish – Dancer – West Palm Beach, Florida

Andrea Stephanie Mish was born and raised in South Florida. She began her training at Southern Dance Theater and later studied at Ballet East in West Palm Beach, Florida. She furthered her training at A.W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts and attended numerous summer intensives, including San Francisco Ballet, Boston Ballet, The Joffrey Ballet, Houston Ballet, among others. In 2023, Andrea graduated with Honors Cum Laude and high distinction with a Bachelor of Science in Dance Arts Administration and Psychology from Butler University. She is also the 2022 and 2023 recipient of the Outstanding Performance Award with Butler Ballet and was on the Dean's List at Butler University. Following graduation, Andrea accepted a position with Ballet Des Moines. She is currently in her second season with Ballet Hispánico.

Instagram: [@andreammish](#)

Kevin Ortiz Lemus – Dancer – Guatemala City, Guatemala

Kevin Otoniel Ortiz Lemus, originally from Guatemala, has performed with companies such as Brooklyn Ballet, Ballet Eloelle/Grandiva, Exit12 Dance Company, and Peridance Contemporary Dance Company. Before moving to New York, Kevin was a Principal Dancer with the Modern and Folkloric Ballet of Guatemala, representing his country in international festivals in Spain and France, and performing in numerous national productions. This is Kevin's first season with Ballet Hispánico.

Instagram: [@kevinortizlem](#)



Amanda Ostuni – Dancer – Patterson, New York

Amanda Ostuni, originally from Patterson, NY, began dancing at the Seven Star School of Performing Arts. She trained in ballet, contemporary, jazz, tap, and hip hop for over fourteen years. She graduated Butler University in 2023, where she received a BFA in Dance Performance. While there, Amanda worked with Jennifer Archibald and Deborah Wingert as well as Susan McGuire, training in Cunningham and Graham technique. This is Amanda's third season with Ballet Hispánico.

Instagram: [@amanda_ostuni](https://www.instagram.com/amanda_ostuni)

Daniel Palladino - Dancer – Canada

Daniel Palladino, originally from Canada, began his training at the age of nine. Daniel attended summer programs throughout North America, including Boston Conservatory, Point Park University, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, and Springboard Danse Montreal. He attended the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, obtaining his BFA in dance, and joined Dallas Black Dance Theatre in 2022 for two seasons. Daniel has worked with choreographers including Jeffery Page, Helen Simoneau, Nejla Yatkin, Jae Man Joo, among others. Daniel's career has led him into developing his voice as an emerging choreographer, setting works on performing art schools, professional training programs and companies. This is Daniel's second season with Ballet Hispánico.

Instagram: [@d_palladino](https://www.instagram.com/d_palladino)

Olivia Winston – Dancer – Salt Lake City, Utah

Olivia Winston, originally from Salt Lake City, UT, received her early classical ballet training at the Ballet West Academy Professional Training Division. She attended intensives at BalletX, American Ballet Theater, Houston Ballet, and Ballet West/ ArtÉmotion. Graduating in 2023 from the Alonzo King LINES Ballet Training Program, Olivia performed works by Alonzo King, Mike Tyus, and Kayla Farrish. Olivia was a Dance Fellow with BalletX for the 2023-2024 season where she performed works by Matthew Neenan, Jennifer Archibald, and Amy Hall Garner. This is Olivia's second season with Ballet Hispánico.



Instagram: [@winston.olivia](https://www.instagram.com/winston.olivia)

THANK YOU

The Egg would like to thank Jacob's Pillow for their generosity and help in securing the White Marley used in tonight's performance.

jacobspillow.org

Thank you to our members for their ongoing support of our programming.

DON'T MISS:

ELLEN SINOPOLI DANCE COMPANY



Saturday, April 25, 2026, 7pm
The Egg, Albany, NY
Tickets at theegg.org

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