



MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

September 21, 2009

Cuban Guest Teacher Joins School of Alberta Ballet

Calgary, AB: The School of Alberta Ballet is pleased to announce that Caridad Martinez, a guest teacher from Cuba, will be teaching Senior Professional Division students from September 21-September 30, 2009.

Ms. Martinez is the Director of the Brooklyn Ballet School "Elevate" Faculty and is a graduate of the Escuela Nacional de Arte in Havana, Cuba, where she studied with Alicia & Fernando Alonso. As a principal dancer of the National Ballet of Cuba, Ms. Martinez performed in the most important theaters in North and South America, Europe and Asia.

Ms. Martinez was Artistic Director of the Cuban-Mexico Ballet School for 13 years, and Artistic Director and choreographer of The Havana Ballet Theater. The Havana Ballet Theater was the creative concept that transformed the performing arts in Cuba during the decade of the 80's.

"Ms. Martinez is considered one of the leading figures of the Performing Arts in Cuba," said Murray Kilgour, School of Alberta Ballet Principal. "She has obtained innumerable awards for her choreographic work for dance and theater. We are thrilled to have her join us at the School of Alberta Ballet."

Ms. Martinez has choreographed for the Hispanic Heritage Awards and for the acclaimed Julian Schnabel film *Before Night Falls*.

About the School of Alberta Ballet:

The School of Alberta Ballet is the official training centre of Alberta Ballet. Established in 1991, the School has become one of Canada's leading dance training institutions. Its curriculum is strongly rooted in the classical ballet tradition while including complimentary dance forms such as modern, jazz, tap, character dance and musical theatre. The School of Alberta Ballet offers a variety of performance opportunities, examinations and workshops.

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