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Flamenco Festival returns to New York City Center March 10—19

Pre-performance events include free dance lessons and artist talks

February 22, 2016/New York, NY—Spain's finest dancers and singers return to New York City Center from March 10—19 for a celebration of flamenco that is stirringly authentic while challenging the conventions of the form. The 2016 Flamenco Festival begins with **Farruquito's *Improvisao***, an evening that utilizes live singers and guitarists to capture the spontaneity of a real flamenco “happening.” In **Nómada**, 11 fearlessly inventive performers from **Compañía Manuel Liñán** offer a journey through the locales where flamenco took shape. A new dance language that draws on the best of flamenco, ballet, and contemporary dance is presented in **Compañía Rocío Molina's *Danzaora & Vinática***. The Festival comes to a spectacular finish with **Images: 20 Years**, a celebration of **Ballet Flamenco de Andalucía**'s two-decade history as an internationally beloved flamenco ambassador. Pre-performance events throughout the festival include free dance lessons and artist talks, and a three-hour workshop led by multi-instrumentalist Nacho Arimany.

About the 2016 Flamenco Festival artists

Farruquito

Improvisao

Mar 10—11 at 8pm

From the legendary Los Farruco dynasty, the first family of Gypsy flamenco dance, Farruquito is regarded as one of the most faithful representatives of *flamenco puro*. *Improvisao* “is a return to my roots and a sample of what I have learned,” says Farruquito. “Singing, guitar, and dance fused with total freedom to create a different show every day.”

Compañía Manuel Liñán (New York debut)

Nómada

Mar 12 at 8pm

The fourth creation by award-winning performer and choreographer Manuel Liñán, *Nómada* brings together an ensemble of six dancers, three singers, and two guitarists for a journey through the geographical locales that frame the art of flamenco. “A hugely engaging new show. This is the kind of flamenco everyone should see.” (*The Arts Desk*, UK) *Nómada* explores how the dynamic patterns and rhythms of human migration made flamenco what it is today—an evening that mingles deeply rooted traditions with modern movement.

Compañía Rocío Molina

Danzaora & Vinática

Mar 17 at 8pm

Rocío Molina is considered one of the most refreshing dancers in the current flamenco scene. *Danzaora*, a term that perfectly defines her style, is not merely a performance but a personal language that combines different artistic schools, including flamenco, classical dance, Spanish classical dance, bolero, and traditional popular dance.

Ballet Flamenco de Andalucía

Images: 20 Years

Mar 18—19 at 8pm

Recognized as one of the most important representatives of flamenco art in Spain, Ballet Flamenco de Andalucía returns under the direction of award-winning choreographer and performer Rafaela Carrasco. In *Images: 20 Years*—commemorating the company's 20th anniversary—Carrasco reinterprets five of the company's most celebrated pieces from choreographers Mario Maya, María Pagés, José Antonio, Cristina Hoyos, and Rubén Olmo, in inventive ways.

About pre-performance events

Dance Lessons

Nightly at 6:30pm (except Thu, Mar 17), Grand Tier Lobby

Experience the joy of flamenco firsthand in this beginners' dance lesson in City Center's Grand Tier Lobby. Free for same-day ticketholders. Capacity is limited, so arrive early to guarantee admission. Tapas and Spanish wine will be available for purchase at the bar.

Pre-Show Talks

Fri, Mar 11 at 6:45pm (Farruquito) & Sat, Mar 19 at 6:45pm (Rafael Carrasco), Shuman Lounge

Learn more about the acclaimed artists of the Flamenco Festival at an intimate talk in City Center's Shuman Patrons Lounge. Free for same-day ticketholders. Capacity is limited, so arrive early to guarantee admission.

Intensive Flamenco Workshop

Sun, Mar 13 at 12pm, Studio 5

Price: \$90

Explore the healing power of flamenco rhythms at this intensive three-hour workshop led by multi-instrumentalist Nacho Arimany. To register, visit www.flamencofestival.org/educa.

Flamenco Festival 2016 is presented by New York City Center and Flamenco Festival

Tickets starting at \$35 can be purchased online at NYCityCenter.org, by calling CityTix at 212.581.1212, or in person at the City Center Box Office. New York City Center is located at 131 West 55th Street between 6th and 7th Avenues.

New York City Center gratefully acknowledges Dance Season Sponsors Barbara and David Zalaznick and Dance Leadership Sponsor The Harkness Foundation for Dance.

Flamenco Festival, founded by Miguel Marin, is dedicated to the promotion of flamenco artists outside of Spain. The festival's annual international events showcase the leading names in flamenco today, from world renowned artists and icons of traditional flamenco to the most innovative, emerging young stars. Flamenco Festival USA was founded in 2001, and has since become a showcase for Spanish artists in New York, Washington DC, Miami, Boston, and other cities across the US. In 2003, the first festival was presented in London at Sadler's Wells and has since become an annual event. Flamenco Festival expanded

to Japan in 2005 and in May 2006 the festival was presented in Paris. The first Flamenco Festival of China presented performances in Beijing, Shanghai, and Hong Kong in 2007 and the following year, the festival was presented in Brussels for the first time with the aim of becoming an annual event. In 2011 Flamenco Festival was presented in Moscow (Russia) and São Paulo (Brazil). Most recently, the expansion reached Doha (Qatar), Seoul (South Korea), and Hong Kong and Shanghai (China). Flamenco Festival also presents concerts and individual flamenco artist tours throughout Europe, Asia, Australia, Canada, and the US. New York Flamenco Festival 2016 is sponsored by Instituto Nacional de las Artes Escénicas y de la Música, Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports of Spain. Additional support of programs at New York City Center is provided by Turismo de Andalucía, Spain Culture New York, Consulate General of Spain in New York; Spain Arts & Culture, Embassy of Spain in Washington; Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional, Unión Europea; Andalucía se mueve con Europa.

New York City Center (Arlene Shuler, President & CEO) has played a defining role in the cultural life of the city since 1943. It was Manhattan's first performing arts center, dedicated by Mayor Fiorello La Guardia with a mission to make the best in music, theater, and dance accessible to all audiences.

Today, City Center is home to many distinguished companies, including Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, City Center's Principal Dance Company, as well as Manhattan Theatre Club; a roster of renowned national and international visiting artists; and its own critically acclaimed and popular programs. The Tony-honored *Encores!* musical theater series has been hailed as "one of the very best reasons to be alive in New York." In summer 2013, City Center launched *Encores! Off-Center*, a series that features landmark Off-Broadway musicals filtered through the lens of today's most innovative artists. Dance has been integral to the theater's mission from the start — and dance programs, including the annual *Fall for Dance* Festival, remain central to City Center's identity. Vital partnerships with arts organizations including Jazz at Lincoln Center and London's Sadler's Wells Theatre enhance City Center's programmatic offerings. City Center brings dance and musical theater to over 9,000 New York City students each year through its robust education program, and other learning opportunities are offered to seniors, families, and the general public. City Center is expanding its programming beyond the proscenium and activating its alternative spaces with pre-show talks, master classes, exhibitions of visual art, and intimate performances that give an up-close look at the work of the great theater and dance artists of our time. In October 2011, City Center completed an extensive renovation project to revitalize and modernize its historic theater.

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