ENSEMBLE ESPAÑOL
Spanish Dance Theater
IN RESIDENCE AT NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Presents
FLAMENCO PASSION
Fri. & Sat. June 15 & 16 | 7:30 pm
Sun. June 17 | 3:00 pm Matinee

BOLERO
25TH ANNIVERSARY
DAME LIBBY KOMAIKO

JOSÉ GRECO
CAIMELA, JOSÉ AND LOLA GRECO
WORLD RENOWNED DANCERS

MAR DE FUEGO
FLAMENCO WORLD PREMIERE BALLET
BY CARLOS RODRÍGUEZ

Photograph by Maurice Seymour,
courtesy of Ronald Seymour

part of the American Spanish Dance & Music Festival

NORTH SHORE CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS IN SKOKIE
FOOTLIGHTS.COM
American Spanish Dance and Music Festival 2018

Flamenco Passion
American Spanish Dance and Music Festival 2018 Performances

North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie
Friday & Saturday, June 15 & 16 at 7:30pm & Sunday, June 17 at 3:00pm

Guest Artists
Ana Gonzalez & Juan Mata, Founding Members of the National Ballet of Spain
Carmela Greco, Renowned Flamenco dancer & choreographer, Madrid
José Greco, Renowned Flamenco dancer & choreographer, Madrid
Lola Greco, Former first dancer of the National Ballet of Spain, Madrid
Carlos Rodriguez, Renowned Flamenco dancer & choreographer, Madrid

Flamenco Musicians
Paco Fonta, Singer & guitarist
Antonio Gabarri Jimenez, Guitarist
Marija Temo, Singer & guitarist
Javier Saume Mazzei, Percussionist

Company Dancers
Claudia Pizarro, José Torres, First Dancers
Crystal Ruiz, Julia Hinojosa (on leave), Monica Saucedo, Juan Castellón, Principal Dancers
Olivia Serrano, Leticia Aravena, Soloists
Abigail Ventura, Leonard Perez, Amanda Saucedo,
Frida Medina (on leave), Luis Beltran, Jonathan Pacheco, Company Dancers
Nalanie Molina, Matt Jalac, Tasiana Villalobos,
Samantha Micklewright, Michael Young, Apprentices

Youth Company Dancers
Katrina Bartels, Catherine Beza, Laila Galecki, Kamila Galecki, Abigail Mosquera,
Yasmeen Quinones, Esmeralda Robledo, Heroly Rodriguez, Yisrael Spurgeon,
Alyssa Teijeiro-Ficht, Senior Division
Ashton Arreola, Anna Barrios, Alizey Diaz, Dyani Diaz, Samantha Diaz, Alexandra Gaviria,
Zoë Kagan, Sofia Melendez, Isabella Trujillo, Sofia Vidaure, Junior Division

Dustin Derry
Technical Director
Sarah Lackner
Stage Manager
Mike Mikrut
Videographer
Photographers
Dean Paul
Joel Maisonet

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Celebrity Golfer and Speaker:
Chicago Cubs Legend Randy Hundley

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Chevy Chase Country Club, Wheeling

9:30 A.M.
Registration

11 A.M.
Shotgun Start

4 P.M.
Cocktail Reception

5 P.M.
Dinner program includes silent auction, awards and Randy Hundley

Proceeds Benefit Student Scholarships

neiu.edu/Kane
ARTISTIC AND EXECUTIVE LEADERS NOTES

Thank you for joining us at the 42nd Annual American Spanish Dance and Music Festival. We are delighted that you have joined us to celebrate our founder, Dame Libby Komaiko, and the 100th Anniversary of José Greco—Dame Libby’s mentor and first Spanish dance teacher!

This year’s festival is honored to present a special tribute to José Greco, directed by Juan Mata, a former dancer of the Greco Company, as well as a founding member and former first dancer of the National Ballet of Spain. More, José Greco’s children, Carmela, José, and Lola have traveled to our festival to celebrate their father’s extraordinary legacy, and the many gifts he gave to the Ensemble Español. We are sure you will wish them a very warm Chicago hello!

We wish to give a special greeting to Mrs. Ana Borger-Greco who deserves our deepest gratitude for generously sharing Jose Greco’s legacy through her support of this tribute. We appreciate the extraordinary gift of Jose Greco’s original costumes worn, for the famous “El Cortijo” (Dance of the Horsemen), premiering in 1950 in Paris and Brussels.

We extend a very special welcome to Dr. Gloria Gibson, Northeastern Illinois University’s new president. We are thrilled to have her as the university’s new leader, and we hope to enrich our long-standing partnership with our beloved home.

For many years now, we have had the generous support of Dr. Bernard Brommel, Northeastern Illinois University professor emeritus. Based on his commitment to the Ensemble Español and the goals of young artists, Dr. Brommel has endowed three scholarships that allow promising dancers to pursue a four-year degree. It is not always known that Dr. Brommel has also endowed a separate program that gives the organization general operating support. He is a living testament to our principle that all of us deserve access to art and education.

We also welcome guest artists Ana Gonzalez, Carlos Rodriguez, Paco Fonta, Antonio Gabarri Jimenez, Marija Temo, and Javier Saume Mazzi. We are excited to share their remarkable talents with you.

It is important to draw attention to all of our company dancers and teachers, and to congratulate them for their achievements this past season. The company opened the “Made in Chicago” series at the historic Auditorium Theater of Roosevelt University, and gave a premiere performance at the Joyce Theater in New York as part of the American Dance Platform—receiving a wonderful review from The New York Times! Likewise, the company reached nearly 65,000 young students through arts education programming over the last two seasons, and our dancers again contributed a range of original choreographies, offered insight into dance technique, and many of them continued training the next generation of the city’s youngest artists. We are very, very proud!

Of course, we must also thank you. It is for you that we create this work, as your participation in these concerts truly gives life to our work. We are grateful that you share your time, and interest in our organization! Ole!

So, travel with this on this journey to Spain! Enjoy!

Artistic Director

Executive Director
North Shore Center for the Performing Arts  
June 15, 16 & 17, 2018

ACT 1

Mar de Fuego (Sea of Fire) World Premiere

Inspired by The Red Thread of Fate legend, choreographer, Carlos Rodriguez, transcends this inspiration with Ensemble Español dancers to create the flamenco contemporary ballet, Mar de Fuego, with visionary lighting designer Luis Perdiguero. According to this East Asian legend, we are destined to connect with one another via this magical red cord from the lunar gods. We are connected regardless of place, time, or circumstances. This magical cord may stretch or tangle, but never break.

Carlos Rodriguez dedicates this ballet to Dame Libby Komaiko for her love, passion, and dedication to the art form of Spanish dance, music, arts, culture and education.

"Gracias Dama Libby de todo Corazon for connecting us all." - Carlos

Choreographer: Carlos Rodriguez

Music: José Nieto, Nicholas Britell, Jerez Texas, Rene Aubry, Ketama & Rao Kyao, Paco de Lucia, and José Antonio Galicia “El Gali”, Javier Saume-Mazzei

Costume Design: Carlos Rodriguez, Vicente Soler, Inma Ortega Levi’s Strauss, Lourdes Bohan, Paloma Gomez, Rosa Garcia Andujar, Devota and Lomba

Lighting Design: Luis Perdiguero Sound Editor: Javier Saume-Mazzei

Obertura (Overture) ................................................................. Michael Young, Apprentice
Miles de Seres (Thousands of Lives) .......................................................... Company
La Esencia (The Essence) ............................................................. Leticia Aravena, Soloist
Los Mares (The Seas) ............................................................................ Company
Olas Crecientes (Rising Waves) ......................................................... Olivia Serrano, Soloist & Juan Carlos, Principal
La Dama .......................................................................................... Irma Suarez Ruiz, Artistic Director
Cristales de Sal (Crystals of Salt) ....................................................... Carlos Rodriguez & Claudia Pizarro, First Dancer
Jaleos (Shouts) .................................................................................. Company
Profundidad (Depth) ........................................................................ Claudia Piazrro, José Torres, First Dancers & Olivia Serrano, Soloist, Luis Beltran, Company Dancers

Mar de Fuego (Sea of Fire) Finale ........................................................... Company

15 Intermission

ACT II

José Greco 100th Anniversary  
(1918-2000)

Directed by Juan Mata, Guest Artist

The Ensemble Español and Northeastern Illinois University are honored in celebrating Dame Libby’s first Spanish dance teacher and director, Mr. José Greco’s 100th anniversary, an American immigrant in Spain.

Juan Mata, who began touring and performing with Mr. Greco and his company at the age of 14, serves as the artistic visionary for this special tribute. Mr. Mata, former first dancer and founding member of the National Ballet of Spain, has selected some of Mr. Greco’s internationally critically acclaimed treasured works. The tribute features all three of Greco’s children who dance: Carmela, José and Lola. This will be the first time since their father was alive that they are reuniting to perform.
José Greco was an Italian-born American Flamenco dancer and choreographer known for popularizing Spanish dance on the stage and screen in America and Europe mostly in the 1950’s and 1960’s. He was born in Montorio ne Frentani of Italian parents as Costanzo Greco. He later changed his name to José. When he was 10 years old, Greco and his family moved to New York City. In 1933, he began dancing in Brooklyn with his sister Norina at a young age.

Greco made his professional dancing debut in 1937 at the Hippodrome Theatre in Manhattan. His most famous partners were La Argentinita (Encarnacion Lopez Julvez) and, after her death, her sister Pilar Lopez. In 1949, he started the José Greco Dance Company, with which he toured extensively throughout Europe and South America to include 35 consecutive US tours and 6 world tours. He also appeared in a number of films and received many honors and awards including being knighted by the Spanish government (Cruz Laureada del Caballero del Merito Civil) and received 4 honorary doctorates. Mr. Greco started the José Greco Foundation for Hispanic Dance in 1972. In 1977 he published his autobiography.

We would like to give a special thank you to Mrs. Ana Borger-Greco for her loving support of Mr. Greco’s legacy and this tribute on his artistic life.

This tribute is made possible thanks to the generous support of the Chicago Community Trust.

José Greco Video Tribute

Editor: Miguel Garcia, Marketing Coordinator

Dancers: Ramon Rodriguez, Curro Velez, Luis Montero, Alicia Diaz, Maria Luisa Egido, Maria Angeles, Carmen Dominguez, Gitanillo

José Greco Photos by: Maurice Seymour, courtesy of Ronald Seymour

Special Thank You to Ms. Carolina Loyola Garcia for her footage of Mr. Greco's biography from her documentary film, Sobre Las Olas, featuring Carmela Greco, Ana Borger-Greco, Marija Temo, Dame Libby Komaiko and the Ensemble Español.

Zambra Farruca

Choreographer and Dancer (1950): José Greco

Original Music: Roger Marchado

Costume Designers: Jose Greco and Emilio García from “La Elegancia” in New York

Tribute Choreographer and Dancer: José Greco II

La Castellana (Jota de Castilla La Viaje –Old Castille)

Choreographer (1930): La Argentinita / (1940) José Greco

Original Dancers in 1940: José Greco, Lola de Ronda, Maria Angeles

Music: Traditional Folklore

Original Costume Design (1940): Traditional Castillian Design

For this tribute costume design and production by: Paco Alonso, Juanjo Linares, Christine Fransen

Dancers: Carmela Greco, Lola Greco, Jorge Perez

El Cortijo

Choreographer (1950): José Greco

Dancers (1952): José Greco, Luis Rivera, Pascual Olivera, Timo Lozano

Music: Tomas Breton

Costume Designers: Jose Greco and Emilio García from “La Elegancia” in New York

Tribute Dancers: José Greco II & Ensemble Español dancers

José Torres, First Dancer, Luis Beltran, Jonathan Pacheco, Company Dancers
Cordoba de Albeniz
Choreographer & Dancer (2017): Lola Greco, Guest Artist
Music: Isaac Albeniz
Costume Design: José, Anna, & Lola Greco

At the beginning of the score for “Córdoba” (Op. 232, No. 4, part of Cantos de España), Isaac Albéniz wrote “In the silence of the night, interrupted by the whisper of breezes perfumed by jasmine blossoms, the sound of guzlas accompany Serenades and diffuse ardent melodies and notes as sweet as the swaying palms in the high heavens.” Albéniz (1860-1909), a symbol of the musical renaissance in Europe at the beginning of the 20th Century, begins this piece with a meditation on what could be the sounds of the bells of the mosque-cathedral, and reminds us of Córdoba in the 11th Century, that multicultural city then considered the most advanced and opulent in all Europe.

After a dramatic ascent of sounds in which one can also hear the echoes of Flamenco, there is a change to a major key and a return to a minor one. We return to the atmosphere of the “whisper of the aromatic breezes,” and then the curtain falls.

The choreographer and dancer dedicates this dance to her parents.

La Petenera
Traditional Flamenco dance from the southern part of Spain with influence from Mexico.
Choreographer (1970): José Greco  Original Dancer: Maruchi Soto
Music for this tribute: Antonio Gabarri Jimenez, composer
Tribute Costume Design: Carmela Greco, Guest Artist
Tribute Dancers: Carmela Greco and Ensemble Español dancers

Anda Jaleo (Lyrics by Federico Garcia Lorca)
Choreographer and Dancer (1930): Argentinita
Choreographer and Dancer (1956): José Greco and Company
Original music (1942): Roger Machado
Music for this tribute: Antonio Gabarri Jimenez with Paco Fonta, Marija Temo, Javier Saume-Mazzei
Original Costume Designs: Argentinita and King Phillip
Tribute Dancers: Carmela, José, Lola Greco and Ensemble Español Company and Youth dancers.

Bolero
25th Anniversary
Choreographer (1993): Dame Libby Komaiko
Music: Maurice Ravel (1875–1937)
Costume Design: Dame Libby Komaiko, Paco Alonso
Costume Design addition for the special 20th anniversary in 2013 by Freddie Rocha
Lighting Design: Michael Mix
Dancers: Full Company

Ensemble Español dedicates this performance of Bolero to longtime St. Louis ambassador of Spanish dance, student, donor, and friend, Mr. Greg Ragsdale and Family.

Tonights production of Bolero is made possible by the Cherry Family Foundation.
The Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater is the premier Spanish dance company and center in the United States to have in-residence status at a university, Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago. The Ensemble Español preserves, presents and promotes the three styles of Spanish dance: Flamenco, folkloric, and classical. Founded in 1975 by Dame Libby Komaiko, and incorporated in 1976, the organization is now under the dynamic leadership of Irma Suarez Ruiz, artistic director and Jorge Pérez, executive director. The company is comprised of 40 dancers, singers, and musicians representing a mosaic of cultures from around the world. The organization is praised by educators, arts professionals, business and government leaders, as well as arts and cultural media for its artistic excellence, cultural integrity, and of course, its commitment to arts and higher education opportunities for all.

The Ensemble appears in a broad range of television, opera, film, and symphonic formats, including with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. The Ensemble has appeared in many major theater and universities in Chicago and Illinois, including the landmark legendary Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University, North Shore Center, Harris Theater, Symphony Space, to mention a few. The Ensemble has appeared throughout the United States, the Midwest, Puerto Rico, Hawaii & Canada and on four continents in the countries of Mexico, Costa Rica, Poland, Australia, China and Spain.
Ensemble Español

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The Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater is delighted to announce that the Raised in Chicago, Ready for the World Matching Grant Campaign has successfully raised $330,000—just steps away from its $500,000 goal! Our gratitude is extended to each of you who have made this possible. Your tax deductible donation will ensure that dancers, teaching artists, staff, and young artists can continue to bring you the best of Spanish dance! We are deeply grateful. Please see our director of development, Carolyn S. Aguila for more information, or contact her at (773) 442-5999. Our creative success is because of you!

DAME LIBBY KOMAIKO, FOUNDER

The Ensemble Español Center for Spanish Dance and Music, the Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater, the Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Youth Company and the American Spanish Dance and Music Festival, Professor Emeritus of Dance in the Department of Music and Dance at Northeastern Illinois University

For over half a century Dame Libby's innovative, unique and visionary career has encompassed art, education and culture. Her passionate pioneering creations are respected and hailed throughout the Americas and internationally. In 1983 she became the first American artist in history to be decorated with Spain's highest honor, the “Lazo de Dama de Isabel la Católica” by Juan Carlos I, King of Spain, for her superlative work in spreading the cultural and artistic values of Spain throughout the U.S.

Dame Libby began her dance training and performance in classical ballet and character dance as a young child with Elisa Stigler at the Chicago Musical College of Roosevelt University. As a teen, she studied and performed Jazz, Modern and Musical Theater with Gus Giordano. At the age of 18, she auditioned for the legendary José Greco and given the opportunity to learn and perform with his world famous Spanish Dance Company. Her beloved journey into the Spanish dance world also led her to the company of Lola Montes. Dame Libby's career also includes musical theater, opera, television, film and orchestra, including guest performances with Arthur Fiedler and the Boston Pops. With the Ensemble Espanol she has performed with the Detroit Symphony, the Evanston and Skokie Valley Symphonies, and repeated performances with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. She has been the choreographer and coach for several Chamber Opera Chicago performances. She has studied in Spain and the United States with Elisa Stigler, Gus Giordano, Maria Alba, Nana Lorca, Lola Montes, José Greco, Edo, Manolo Vargas, Paul Haakon, María Magdalena, Pedro Azorin, Ciro, Pacita Tomas, and Roberto Lorca, with whom she partnered for several years.

In 1976 she created and founded the Ensemble Español, the premier Spanish Dance Center and Company in the United States to have “In Residence” status at a university, Northeastern Illinois University in Chicago. She has choreographed the majority of the company’s extensive 135 plus choreographic roster and has produced their major international Flamenco ballets and dramas, folkloric suites and classic modern interpretations with guest artists from Spain and the Americas.

American Spanish Dance and Music Festival 2018 | Flamenco Passion
The recipient of numerous awards including civic honors, national awards, and choreography fellowships, she received the coveted Ruth Page Award in 2003 at the Ravinia Festival and the prestigious International Latino Cultural Center Lifetime Achievement Award in 2004. She is also on the roster of the Illinois Arts Council as a Master Teacher through the Arts-in-Education and Artists-in-residence programs. Dame Libby completed the filming of a video documentary, Ensemble Español: The First 20 years, 1976-1996, in 1998. In 2008 Dame Libby was honored with the Distinguished Alumni Award from her Alma Mater, Evanston Township High School. In 2008 she also received the Outstanding Partnership Award from Mayor Richard M. Daley for her collaboration of Spanish dance, music and education with the Joyce Kilmer Elementary School in Rogers Park with the Ensemble Español.

She produced a CD of Spanish music and castanets, “Dama Libby and Friends”, which benefits the Ensemble’s Youth Scholarship and Endowment Funds.

**ARTISTIC AND EXECUTIVE LEADERS**

**IRMA SUAREZ RUÍZ,** *Artistic Director,* was born in Chicago, then moved to Mexico City to live with her family. Her formal dance training in classical ballet and Spanish dance began with Dame Libby Komaiko in 1979. She studied with such Spanish dance legends as Maria Alba, Edo, Paco Alonso, Victorio Korjhan, Juanjo Linares, Roberto Lorca, Timo Lozano, Manolete, Carmela Greco, and Juan Mata and Ana González, founding members of the National Ballet of Spain. Additional studies include those with Cristian Almodovar, Aida Gomez, Rafaela Carrasco, Belen Maya, La China, El Guito, Paco Romero and Candela Soto at the Amor de Dios Flamenco Dance Academy, and ballet with Anna Czajun. She graduated with honors from NEIU in April 1983 with a B.A. in Foreign Languages and Literature and a minor in Dance. Irma has been honored with the Artistic Ambassador Award from the Ruth Page Foundation and NEIU in recognition of her artistic achievements and contributions to dance internationally. Irma was recognized by the St. Louis Flamenco Society for her longstanding commitment to the art form, and was part of the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs’ Viva Latina series. She is part of the NEIU’s dance faculty, and was a guest choreographer with the Civic Ballet’s production of Black Tights/Spanish Rhythms presented by the Ruth Page Dance Series. She is an accomplished choreographer, contributing five full ballets for the professional company, and many works for the organization’s Youth Company and arts education program. Irma is excited for the company’s upcoming artistic projects planned over the next 5 years including new works, international partnerships and collaborations and the return of award winning choreographers and residency artists. Irma is married to Antonio Ruiz who are now the new proud grandparents to Manolo and Emily.

**JORGE PÉREZ,** *Executive Director,* was born in San Juan, Puerto Rico. He began his formal study of Spanish dance with Dame Libby Komaiko in 1985 after receiving a scholarship apprenticeship. Jorge continued his studies with many guest artists at the Ensemble’s annual Festival and in Spain at the Amor de Dios Flamenco Dance Academy with such Spanish dance legends as Edo, Paco Alonso, Victorio Korjhan, Juanjo Linares, Roberto Lorca, Timo Lozano, Manolete, Carmela Greco, Paco Romero, Candela Soto, and Juan Mata and Ana González, founding members of the
National Ballet of Spain and ballet with Anna Czajun. Jorge is a graduate of NEIU with a B.A. in Speech Communication/Performing Arts and a minor in Dance. Jorge has been honored with the Artistic Ambassador Award from the Ruth Page Foundation and NEIU in recognition of his artistic achievements and contributions to dance internationally. In 2002 he received an Appreciation Award from Richard M. Daley, Mayor of Chicago, for his exceptional contribution to the arts in Chicago. In 2004, Jorge Pérez was honored with the Twentieth Anniversary Award from the St. Louis Cultural Flamenco Society. In 2014 he graduated from the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses Program where he recently served on the welcoming panel for the 2017 cohort 18 class with special guests Lloyd Blankfein, CEO of Goldman Sachs, and Chicago Mayor, Rahm Emanuel. Jorge, EE and NEIU are proud to partner with cohort 9 alumni, Patricia Aguilar from Gameplan Creative. Gameplan are the creative marketing designers for our current Caerus Foundation match grant campaign, Raised In Chicago, Ready For The World, honoring the dancers of the EE. His accomplishments are listed in Who’s Who among Hispanic Americans, Who’s Who among Business Leaders of America, Who’s Who in Dance and for Negocios Now Who’s Who among Hispanic Entrepreneurs in Chicago.

**GUEST ARTISTS**

**ANA GONZÁLEZ & JUAN MATA,** Guest Artists / Faculty / Choreographers / Founding Members & former Stars of the National Ballet of Spain (Madrid, Spain). Ms. Gonzalez was born in Sens, France, where she began her studies in classical ballet at THERPCHICORETTES, under the direction of Lucien Legrand (First Dancer, star and teacher of L’Opera de Paris) and Tripolina d’Iatosi of the Comedie Francaise, member of the Federation Francaise de Dance. She received a grant to study at the “Conservatoire Superieur de Musique de Paris”, where she continued her classical ballet studies at the preparatory, medium and superior levels, under the direction of Solange Schwartz (First Dancer, star and teacher of L’Opera de Paris) and was admitted several years later to “Les Ballets Russes de Montecarlo”. Mr. Mata began taking classes with the great master teacher, choreographer and dancer, José Granero at the Amor de Dios studios in Madrid at the age of ten. At the age of fourteen he made his debut as a professional dancer in José Greco’s company during the Royal Festival in London, and toured throughout Europe and the United States. He was awarded a scholarship to study at New York’s Harkness Ballet, after which he was invited to be part of the creation of said Ballet in Europe, based in Gestaad, Switzerland. Together, Juan and Ana, have toured the globe working with many legendary artists and setting historic ballets including the Amor Brujo on the Ensemble Español in 2003 and Alegrías y Jaleos in 2006 to critical acclaim thanks to the generous support and sponsorship of the Chicago Community Trust and the Illinois Arts Council. Mr. Mata is the artistic director of the 100th Anniversary celebrating Mr. José Greco. Dame Komaiko, Irma Suarez Ruiz, Jorge Perez, Ensemble Español and Northeastern Illinois University are honored to welcome them once again to our 42nd American Spanish Dance & Music Festival.

**CARMELA GRECO,** Guest Artist / Faculty / Dancer / Choreographer / Founder & Artistic Director of Compañía Carmela Greco, daughter of the legendary José Greco, is a world-renowned Flamenco dancer and choreographer. Carmela began dancing at an early age in Madrid, Spain, studying all forms of Spanish
dance. In 1972, she was selected on merit to dance in Ballet Antología, precursor to the National Ballet of Spain. She went on to dance as prima ballerina in the company of Luisillo for three years, before founding her own company and touring throughout Europe, the Middle East and Africa. Carmela has performed for the King of Spain, Juan Carlos I, and the Duke of Edinburgh, and has danced in all the leading tablas in Madrid. Carmela is a sought after master teacher working at the Amor de Dios Flamenco Dance Academy in Madrid since 1986 and throughout the U.S., Japan, Venezuela, Paris, Milan and Spain. Carmela continues her stage work with esteemed artists partnering and performing with Antonio Canales, Rafaela Carrasco, Alejandro Granados, Manuel Antonio Reyes, and her brother José Greco. Her latest touring production has her working with Marco Flores in Spain and in the U.S. She has been recognized by the International Dance Council in Cordoba for the UNESCO (United Nations, Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) as an ambassador of Spanish dance and culture. Carmela serves as the president of the José Greco Foundation for Hispanic Dance, Inc. This year the Greco family and foundation, along with the collaboration of Juan Mata and Ana Gonzalez, celebrate and honor the 100th Anniversary of José Greco with Dame Libby Komaiko, Irma Suarez Ruiz, Jorge Perez, the Ensemble Español, Northeastern Illinois University and the American Spanish Dance & Music Festival.

LOLA GRECO, Guest Artist / Faculty / Dancer / Choreographer (Madrid, Spain) is the daughter of the legendary José Greco and Lola de Ronda. At the age of 15 she began performing with the Ballet Nacional de España(BNE). At the age of 19 she was promoted to Prima Balerina. Lola has also been a special guest artist for the BNE as well as for the following companies: The Giants of Dance, Teatro Champs Elises, Paris, Compañía Rafael Aguilar, The José Greco Ballet, The Lola Greco Dance Company where she also served as director, choreographer and Prima Ballerina, and Compañía “El Pipa” to name a few. Lola has starred in many major roles in her career; Salome directed by Robert Hossein with choreography by Van Hoecke, Medea by Manolo Sanlucar with choreography by José Granero, Romance de la Luna by José Nieto to the choreography of Antonio Canales, El Rango by Antonio Ruiz, and Cierre de la Pasarela Cibeles with Francis Montesinos y Nacho Duato. As special guest artist she has performed for tributes to Mariemma in Las Divinas de Pisa in Pisa, Italy, Antonio Merce in

JOSÉ GRECO, II, Guest artist / Faculty / Dancer / Choreographer José Greco, Jr., started his dance studies at age 17 with the National Ballet Spain’s School of Dance, and in 1982, he joined his sister, Carmela Greco, in her company, Ballet Estampas, which toured Europe, Africa, and the Middle East. Mr. Greco has presented private performances for Their Royal Highnesses, the King and Queen of Spain, and H. R. H., the Duke of Edinburgh and the late Princess of Wales. He has performed at the Kennedy Center of Performing Arts, the Joyce Theater, with Savion Glover at the American Dance Festival, and at the prestigious Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival. He has portrayed the coveted role of the Devil in Susana Beltrami’s Italian production, Diablo, and appeared in the role of “El Ginete Caballo,” (the Death Rider), in Garcia Lorca’s critically-acclaimed Amargo with Mario Amaya’s Flamenco Ballet. Recently, Mr. Greco collaborated again with Susana Beltrami on the opera Obscure, based on the life of Edgar Allen Poe. This production received support from the Spanish Ministry of Culture. Dame Komaiko, Irma Suarez Ruiz, Jorge Perez, the Ensemble Español, and Northeastern Illinois University are honored to welcome Mr. Greco to his second season with the company, and the American Spanish Dance and Music Festival celebrating the 100th Anniversary of José Greco.
**GUEST ARTISTS CONT.**

Danza de los Ojos Verdes, La Cariñosa in Madrid, and José Greco in Goyescas, Zapateado, and Asturias in Tokyo and Osaka, Japan. Lola has taught and performed throughout the U.S., Spain, Italy, Greece, Mexico, Japan, South America, and Russia. She has received numerous awards in Italy and Madrid including the Premio Pilar Lopez, Premio Cultura Viva, Premio Nacional de Danza, and has been named “Excellent Member” by the UNESCO organization -United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization based in Paris. Dame Libby Komaiko, Irma Suarez Ruiz, Jorge Perez, the Ensemble Español and Northeastern Illinois University are honored to welcome Lola to her premiere residency with the company and the American Spanish Dance and Music Festival celebrating the 100th Anniversary of José Greco.

**CARLOS RODRIGUEZ**

Guest artist / Faculty / Dancer/ Choreographer / Co-Founder of Nuevo Ballet Español and Rojas and Rodriguez. Carlos’s philosophy, along dance partner and co-creator, Angel Rojas, is based on the search for a different way of understanding movement, creation, scenic approach, lighting and sound space, which give the Rojas and Rodriguez shows a new dimension within the Spanish dance and flamenco styles. Their work began in 1996. Both dancers had been trained with exceptional masters José Granero, Luisillo and Rafael Aguilar. They met after winning the best dancer award in 1994 at the Flamenco Annual Choreography Ceremony joining as soloists the José Antonio Ruiz Spanish Dance Company. They obtained international recognition thanks to their show Flamenco Directo in 1998, an original production. Both, Rojas and Rodríguez, for the last 20 years, have produced, directed and choreographed with success annual programs fusing their different styles of dance. They have produced original shows such as Gallo de Pelea, NBE x 5, Fury, and Titanium among others. Ensemble Español was excited in presenting their collaborative creation of IROKO on our dancers in honor of the company’s 40th anniversary in 2016. Dame Libby Komaiko, Irma Suarez Ruiz, Jorge Perez, the Ensemble Español and Northeastern Illinois University are honored to welcome back Carlos back to the American Spanish Dance & Music Festival.

**MUSICIANS**

**PACO FONTA, Flamenco Singer and Guitarist**

(Jaen, Spain). began his professional career performing in tablaos and festivals accompanying singers and dancers such as La Nina de la Huerta and Antonio Molina in Spain. He later toured Europe with the Kurt Savoy Trio. In 1985 he won first prize in cante jondo at the Flamenco festival in Jaen, Spain. Paco Fonta came to Miami in 1986 with his wife Celia, a well known Flamenco dancer, to open the famous Cacharrito’s Place Tablao. Mr. Fonta recently toured China with the Ensemble Español. Dame Komaiko, Irma Suarez Ruiz, Jorge Perez, the E.E. and Northeastern Illinois University are honored to welcome Paco Fonta on this his thirty first season with the company and the American Spanish Dance and Music Festival.

**ANTONIO GABARRI JIMENEZ, Flamenco Guitarist**

(Madrid, Spain), born in Madrid, began playing Flamenco guitar in his youth. Following his inspiration of Manolo Sanlucar and forming his
own unique style, Antonio quickly rose to playing in the top tablaos of Madrid such as Café de Chinitas, Corral de la Pacheca and Karibeu. He has accompanied such distinguished artists as La Chunga, Ramirez, La Chana, El Mimbre, and Carmela Greco. For over eight years, Antonio worked as guitarist for the renowned Lola Flores. Antonio joined the José Greco II Company as music director in 1992, with which he toured throughout the U.S. and Italy. In 2001, he composed the music for Climax, a production dedicated to the life of José Greco in the most important theaters of Tokyo, Kyoto, and Osaka. Dame Komaiko, Irma Suarez Ruiz, Jorge Perez, the Ensemble Español and Northeastern Illinois University are honored to welcome back Antonio Gabarri Jimenez on this his fifth season with the company and the American Spanish Dance and Music Festival.

MARIJA TEMO, Flamenco guitarist & singer, described as a “triple threat”, is widely recognized as a virtuoso classical/flamenco guitarist, flamenco vocalist, conductor, and former dancer. She actively performs as a soloist with symphony orchestras, in guitar concert series and festivals, as a flamenco singer/guitar accompanist, and has been featured utilizing her talents in unique types of performance. She has performed for many dignitaries and with highly acclaimed artists, and has also received several awards. In addition to her versatile performance career, she is known for her teaching methods, educational programs, and workshops. Dame Komaiko, the Ensemble Español and Northeastern Illinois University are honored to welcome back Ms. Marija Temo to her third American Spanish Dance and Music Festival.

JAVIER SAUME MAZZEI, Percussionist, a native of Caracas, Venezuela, began playing percussion at the age of eight. He holds a B.A. in Music from Roosevelt University where he studied classical percussion with Ed Harrison, drum set with Phil Grateau and Paul Wertico and latin percussion with Ruben Alvarez. Mr. Mazzei has performed with Rhonda Richmond, Reginald Veal, Herlin Riley, and Cassandra Wilson, and the Symphony Orchestra “Sistema de Orquestas Juveniles de Venezuela”. He has performed internationally in concerts, master classes, and residencies in Beijing, China, and at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. and Carnegie Hall in N.Y. with Sones de Mexico Ensemble. He currently records with Sones the only group in NARAS history to be nominated for the Latin Grammy and Grammy in the same year. Dame Komaiko, Irma Suarez Ruiz, Jorge Perez, the Ensemble Español and Northeastern Illinois University are honored to welcome Mr. Mazzei to this his ninth season with the company and the American Spanish Dance and Music Festival.

THE COMPANY

JOSÉ TORRES, First Dancer, was born and raised in Chicago, and began his formal Spanish dance training with Dame Libby Komaiko in 1995 as part of Ensemble’s Youth Company. After being promoted to Apprentice, Company Dancer and then Principal Dancer, José has performed nationally and internationally in principal roles with Ensemble. He has traveled to Madrid, Spain numerous times, studying at the Amor de Dios Flamenco Dance Academy in Madrid, and with such teachers as Carmela Greco, Juan Mata, Ana Gonzalez, José Barrios, Paloma Gomez, and Raquel Gomez. He was a guest artist and guest choreographer of Danza Viva Spanish Dance Company in Perth,
Australia, under the direction of Deanna Blacher OAM in 2007, 2011 and 2013. José choreographed *Flamenco Pas De Deux* with fellow Principal Dancer Claudia Pizzaro, as well as numerous solos. He was featured in Dereque Whitur’s *Cicatrices* with fellow Ensemble dancer Juan Carlos Castellon, and danced a principal role in *Mil Clavos* by Ron de Jesus. José also teaches and rehearses the Ensemble’s Youth Company high-school/college division.

**CLAUDIA PIZARRO, First Dancer,** from Chihuahua, Mexico, began studying Spanish dance in 2002 as part of the Summer Transition Program at Northeastern Illinois University. In 2003, she became an apprentice to the Ensemble. In 2004, she was promoted to Company Dancer, and later was named Principal Dancer. Claudia performs nationally with the Ensemble, and has choreographed numerous duets with fellow Principal Dancer, José Torres. These include *Flamenco Pas De Deux* and *Vivencias*. Claudia danced a principal role in Ron de Jesus’ *Mil Clavos* in 2014, and represented the Ensemble in Lane Alexander’s collaborative work *In The Meantime* at the Chicago Dancing Festival in 2015. In 2014, Claudia became a full-time dancer with the Ensemble and teaches Spanish dance with After School Matters throughout Chicago. She is a graduate of Northwestern University, and has a master’s in Child Development from Erikson Institute. Ruiz and John Hernandez are the proud parents of Emily Juliette, who made her stage debut at the Ensemble’s 2017 American Spanish Dance and Music Festival concerts. ¡Ole!

**CRYSTAL RUIZ, Principal Dancer, Rehearsal Assistant,** was born and raised in Cicero, Illinois. She began her formal Spanish dance training as a young child, and first performed with the Ensemble at the age of four. She was a member of the Ensemble’s Youth Company, and became Company Dancer in 2003. In 2012, she became Rehearsal Assistant to the professional company. She studied at the prestigious Amor de Dios Flamenco Dance Academy in Madrid, Spain. Her dance teachers include Juan Mata, Ana Gonzalez, Paloma Gomez, Raquel Gomez, and others. She performs nationally and internationally with the Ensemble, and has been showcased in Paloma Gomez’s *Nuevamente Vivir*, which was performed in 2015 at the Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival’s Inside/Out dance series. She has collaborated with fellow Ensemble dancers, and these choreographies include *Anhelo del Alma* and *Deshojando Flores*. Crystal rehearses and teaches the Ensemble’s Youth Company grade-school division. Crystal has taught various After School Matters residencies throughout Chicago. She is a graduate of NEIU with a degree in Finance, and she is married to company percussionist Javier Saume Mazzei. She is the proud mother to their son, Gael.

**JULIA HINOJOSA, (on leave) Principal Dancer, Associate Artistic Director of the Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Youth Company, Arts and Education Coordinator,** was born and raised in Chicago. Julia began her Spanish dance studies in 2000 with Dame Libby Komaiko, and became a Company Dancer in 2005. She has studied in Madrid, Spain at the Amor de Dios Flamenco Dance Academy, and she studied extensively with Paloma Gomez, Raquel Gomez, Juan Mata, Ana Gonzalez, and Carmela Greco. She was featured in Paloma Gomez’s *Nuevamente Vivir*, and as a leading role in Ron De Jesus’ *Mil Clavos* in 2014. Julia performed her choreography *Ensuenos de mi Caribe* at the Museum of Contemporary Art as part of the 2013 Chicago Dancing Festival. She became a full-time dancer in 2014, and coordinates and teaches for the Ensemble’s educational outreach programs at schools throughout Chicago.
Chicago. She graduated with honors from Northeastern Illinois University with a degree in English, and a minor in Dance, studying ballet, modern and jazz. She earned a master’s degree from Columbia College in Arts Management. Julia was awarded the 2017 Chicago Negoicios Now 40 for 40 Hispanic Entrepreneur Award. Julia has spent the last year in Spain teaching English.

**OLIVIA SERRANO,**
*Soloist Dancer, Rehearsal Assistant,* is a Chicago native. She began dancing ballet, modern and jazz at age ten with the Chicago Park District, under the direction of Katia Marzolf-Borione, Sarah Glover-Heston and Rebecca Pollok. In 2003, she began her formal Spanish dance training with Dame Libby Komaiko and Ensemble’s Youth Company, and became an apprentice to the professional company in 2004. She was promoted to Company Dancer in 2005. After studying with teachers in the US and extensively at the Amor de Dios Flamenco Dance Academy in Madrid with teachers Juan Mata, Ana Gonzalez, Raquel Gomez, and Paloma Gomez, she became Rehearsal Assistant to the Ensemble’s professional company, teaching and assisting in regular rehearsals. She has been showcased in choreographies set by Paloma Gomez such as *Nuevamente Vivir* and, as a soloist, in Gomez’s *Córdoba.* She has collaborated with other Ensemble company dancers on such choreographies as *Anhelo del Alma.* She choreographed and performs in *Deshojando Flores,* which was presented at the Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival’s Inside/Out dance series in 2015. She has been a guest artist to the Luna Troop Dance Company, under the direction of Sarah Glover-Heston, in 2012 and 2015. Olivia continues to perform nationally and internationally with the Ensemble, and is a graduate of the University of Illinois at Chicago.

**MONICA SAUCEDO,**
*Principal Dancer, Teacher,* is a native Chicagoan, and began dancing at age five with the Nobleza Azteca Mexican Folkloric Dance Group, under the direction of Frances Garcia and Vicente Guerrero. In 1999, Monica was given a scholarship to the Ensemble’s Youth Company. She then became an apprentice to the professional company in 2005, and was promoted to Company Dancer in the same year. In 2014, she became a part-time dancer with Ensemble, and assists in teaching and rehearsing the Ensemble’s Youth Company grade-school division. She has also taught summer intensive programs at Joffrey Ballet and Ballet Chicago. After graduating from Northeastern Illinois University with a degree in Secondary Education and Mathematics, Monica taught math at DePaul College Prep (formerly Gordon Tech High School) where she formed and lead *Ritmo Español,* an after school group for Spanish and flamenco dance. She has a master’s degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Concordia University Chicago, and currently teaches at The Chicago High School for the Arts.

**JUAN CARLOS CASTELLON,** *Principal Dancer,* originally from El Salvador, has studied modern, Latin, African, capoeira and ballet with Valerie Alpert and Vaune C. Blalock. He began his formal Spanish dance training as an apprentice with the Ensemble in 2005, and was promoted to Company Dancer in 2006. Juan Carlos performs nationally and internationally with the Ensemble, and represented Northeastern Illinois University in the American College Dance Festival in 2012 and 2013. In 2014, he performed *Aludir a lo Que Fue,* a choreography with fellow Company Dancer Leticia Aravena, at the Jacob’s Pillow’s Dance Festival’s Inside/Out dance series. He danced a principal role in
Ron de Jesus’ *Mil Clavos* in 2014 and was showcased in *Cicatrices*, a contemporary modern and flamenco duet, choreographed by Dereque Whiturs. Juan Carlos is a graduate of NEIU with a major in Communications, and a minor in Dance.

**Leticia Susana Aravena**, *Soloist Dancer*, was born in Cordoba, Argentina. She began studying ballet, tap and flamenco at age 11 at the Escuela Integral de la Danza, under the direction of Graciela E. Perez de Ceva. She became an apprentice to the Ensemble in 2006, and in 2007, was promoted to Company Dancer. She performs nationally and internationally with the Ensemble. In 2014, the choreography *Aludir a lo Que Fue*, co-choreographed with fellow Company Dancer Juan Carlos Castellon, was presented at the prestigious Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival's Inside/Out dance series. In 2015, she became a part-time dancer and teacher with the Ensemble. She currently teaches Spanish dance as part of the After School Matters programs. She earned a degree in Spanish Language and Interdisciplinary Studies from Northeastern Illinois University, where she also studied ballet, jazz and modern with Venetia Stifter. Leticia performs regularly with a *cuadro flamenco* at Bulerias Tapas and Bordel. She is the proud mother of three-year-old Gianlucca, to whom she dedicated her flamenco solo, *Nacido del Mar*.

**Abigail Ventura**, *Company Dancer*, is a native of Chicago and began studying Spanish dance with After School Matters, under the direction of Julia Hinojosa at Northeastern Illinois University. She has studied modern, ballet and jazz at NEIU with Venetia Stifter, Rachael Burton, Jamie Ferrell and Victor Alexander. She joined the Ensemble’s Youth Company in 2010, and became an apprentice and was promoted to Company Dancer shortly after. While in the Ensemble’s Youth Company, Abigail traveled to Madrid, Spain in 2012 to study with such artists as Paloma Gomez, Carmela Greco and Maria Torres at the Botica del Arte Dance Studio. Abigail is a recipient of the Brommel-Komaiko-Perez and Music Department and Dance Program scholarships at NEIU. She represented NEIU at the American College Dance Festival in 2012, and presented her choreography *Despidida de los Virgenes* in 2013. Abigail performs nationally with the Ensemble, and was showcased in Ron De Jesus’ *Mil Clavos* in 2014. Abigail is a graduate of NEIU with a degree in Dance Education, and teaches throughout the Chicago area at various dance studios and schools.

**Leonard Perez**, *Company Dancer*, originally from Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, began his dance training in ballroom dance at Kelvyn Park High School. In 2009, he started his formal Spanish dance training while participating in an Ensemble residency program at Steinmetz High School with Irma Suarez Ruiz. He joined the Ensemble’s Youth Company in 2010, and became an apprentice to the professional company shortly after. He was promoted to Company Dancer in 2012. Leonard studied ballet, modern and jazz while on scholarship at NEIU with Venetia Stifter, Rachael Burton, Jamie Ferrell and Victor Alexander. Leonard traveled to Madrid, Spain in 2012 with the Ensemble’s Youth Company to study with artists Carmela Greco, Maria Torres and Paloma Gomez at the Botica del Arte Dance Studio. He represented NEIU at the American College Dance Festival and has participated in summer intensive workshops at Dance Theater of Harlem, The Ailey School, River North Dance Chicago, Thodos Dance Chicago, Deeply Rooted Dance Theater, and The Ruth Page School of Dance. He was a member of the Milwaukee Ballet II, and is currently a dancer with the Dayton Ohio Ballet. Leonard
traveled to Havana, Cuba this last March, for the Encuentro Internacional de Academias 2017 dance intensive.

**AMANDA SAUCEDO,** *Company Dancer*, a native of Chicago, started dancing at age five with Nobleza Azteca Mexican Folkloric Dance Group, under the direction of Frances Garcia and Vicente Guerrero. She joined Ensemble's Youth Company in 2007, under the direction of Dame Libby Komaiko and Sara Samuels, and became an apprentice to Ensemble in 2013. She has since studied with Irma Suarez Ruiz, Jorge Perez, Julia Hinojosa, Juan Mata, Ana Gonzalez, Timo Lozano, Paloma and Raquel Gomez, Cristian Lozano and ballet with Anna Czajun. She traveled with the Ensemble's Youth Company in 2012 to the Botica del Arte Dance Studio to study Flamenco and Spanish dance. Amanda travels nationally with the Ensemble, performing works by Paloma Gomez, Raquel Gomez and Ron De Jesus, and teaches for the Ensemble's community outreach programs. She is a recipient of the Brommel-Komaiko-Perez scholarship at Northeastern Illinois University, where she is also a student with a major in Social Work.

**FRIDA MEDINA** (*on leave*), *Company Dancer*, born in Chicago, began dancing ballet and jazz at age seven at St. Mary of the Angels Elementary School. She began her formal Spanish dance training in 2004 with the Ensemble's Youth Company, under the direction of Dame Libby Komaiko and Sara Samuels. In 2013, she became an apprentice to the Ensemble, and has since studied with Irma Suarez Ruiz, Jorge Perez, Julia Hinojosa, Juan Mata, Ana Gonzalez, Timo Lozano, Paloma and Raquel Gomez, Cristian Lozano, and ballet with Anna Czajun. She traveled to the Botica del Arte Dance Studio in Madrid, Spain with Ensemble's Youth Company in 2012 to study Flamenco and Spanish dance. Frida travels and performs with Ensemble nationally, performing in works by Ron De Jesus and Irma Suarez Ruiz. Frida is on faculty with the Ensemble Español Flamenco Dance community workshops, and she is currently studying Spanish Education at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Frida is currently in Spain studying Spanish dance.

**LUIS BELTRAN,** *Company Dancer*, originally from Chicago, began his Spanish dance training in 2004 as part of the Ensemble's Youth Company, under the direction of Dame Libby Komaiko and Sara Samuels. He became an understudy, and an apprentice to the Ensemble in 2013. He has studied with Irma Suarez Ruiz, Jorge Perez, José Torres, Juan Mata, Ana Gonzalez, Timo Lozano, and Paloma and Raquel Gomez. Luis has also studied ballet and modern with Venetia Stifler, Rachael Burton and Jamie Ferrel at Northeastern Illinois University, and was a recipient of the Brommel-Perez Scholarship. In 2012, he traveled to Madrid, Spain with the Ensemble's Youth Company to study at the Botica del Arte Dance Studio with Carmela Greco, Maria Torres and Paloma Gomez. Luis performs nationally and internationally with the Ensemble performing works choreographed by Raquel Gomez, Irma Suarez Ruiz and Ron de Jesus.

**JONATHAN PACHECO,** *Company Dancer*, was born and raised in Chicago. He began dancing ballet with Destine Young at the W Dance Studio, and Latin rhythms with Massiel Zaragoza at Prosser Career Academy, as well as Blas Ortiz at the Miracle Center. He has also studied voice (Baritone) with Xavier Custodio. In 2013, he began his studies in Spanish dance with Irma Suarez Ruiz while attending classes at Northeastern Illinois University. Jonathan became an apprentice to
Ensemble in 2014. He has since studied with Irma Suarez Ruiz, José Torres, Jorge Perez, Paloma Gomez, and Raquel Gomez, as well as ballet with Ana Czajun. Jonathan graduated from NEIU Suma Cum Lade with a major in Political Science. Congratulations on your promotion from Apprentice to Company Dancer. Ole!

NALANIE MOLINA, *Company Apprentice*, of Puerto Rican descent, was born and raised in Chicago. Nalanie was first introduced to Spanish dance at the age of 18 through After School Matters under the direction of Irma Suarez Ruiz and Leticia Aravena in 2011. Within that same year, she auditioned for the Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Youth Company where she began her formal training with Julia Hinojosa and Sara Samuels. In 2012, Nalanie went to Madrid Spain with the EESDYC to study flamenco and classical Español with Paloma Gomez, Carmela Greco, Maria Torres, Joaquin Ruiz, and Carolina Arias. She has also studied with José Torres, Claudia Pizzaro, Raquel Gomez, José Barrios, Anna Czajun, Chiara Mangiameli, Dereque Whiter, and Edwin Aparicio. In January 2017, Nalanie was awarded an apprenticeship with EE. She is a graduate of North Park University with a Bachelor in Psychology and currently works for Chicago Public Schools as a teacher’s assistant and after school dance instructor for children pre-k - 8th grade.

MATTHEW JALAC, *Company Apprentice*, of Filipino descent, was first introduced to Spanish Dance after joining an after school dance program at Gordon Tech High School under the direction of Ensemble Español Principal Dancer, Monica Saucedo in 2012. One year later, he auditioned and was accepted into the Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Youth Company where he began his formal dance training with Principal Dancer, Julia Hinojosa and First Dancer, José Torres. In addition to training with the Youth Company, Matthew has also studied dance with Irma Suarez Ruiz and Spanish dancers Paloma Gomez, Raquel Gomez, Carlos Rodriguez, Angel Rojas, Carmela Greco, José Greco II, Gala Vivancos, Pol Vaquero and founding member of the National Ballet of Spain, Juan Mata. Matthew has also studied Contemporary Dance with Mary Tisa, Co-Artistic Director of the Jay-son Tisa Dance Company and Ballet with Anna Czajun. In January 2017, Matthew was awarded an apprenticeship to the professional company. Matthew is also a student at Liberty University.

TASIANA VILLALOBOS, *Company Apprentice*, was born in Chicago and began studying Spanish dance in 2011 at the age of 16 with the Ensemble Español’s After School Matters program. That same year, she began training with Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Youth Company under the direction of Sara Samuels, Julia Hinojosa, and José Torres. Through her training, she has studied with Dame Libby Komaiko, Irma Suárez Ruiz, Jorge Pérez, Paloma and Raquel Gomez, Cristian Lozano, and José Barrios, and studied ballet with Anna Czajun. Villabolos just graduated with her BA in communication, media, and theatre from Northeastern Illinois University.

SAMANTHA MICKLEWRIGHT, *Company Apprentice*, was born in Arlington Heights, IL. She began ballet and tap classes at the age of 2 at DanceXpress Studio. Micklewright displayed an early passion for all forms of dance. At 7 years old, she began taking flamenco classes with Margie Dziadzka, a former student of Dame Libby Komaiko. In 2013, at the age of 11, Samantha
auditioned for the Ensemble Español Youth Company and was awarded a full scholarship. This was the beginning of her formal Spanish dance training under the direction of Sara Samuels. During her four-year tenure with the Youth Company, Samantha also studied with Julia Hinojosa, José Torres, Claudia Pizarro-Saume, Leticia Aravena, and many artists from Spain including Paloma and Raquel Gomez, Carmela Greco, Pol Vaquero, Carlos Rodriguez, and Angel Rojas. She has studied ballet with Anna Czajun and Taryn Fates, and has also studied at the Ruth Page Center for Performing Arts with Patti Klekovic. Micklewright traveled to Spain to study at Amor de Dios in 2015 and the Conservatory of Professional Dance in 2017. Micklewright is home-schooled and also attends part-time classes at Buffalo Grove High School where she will be a junior studying art.

MICHAEL YOUNG, Company Apprentice, was born in the Philippines and began dancing hip hop and contemporary hip hop at church events. As a student in Irma Suárez Ruiz’s Introduction to Spanish Dance at NEIU, he attended and watched Paloma Gomez’s dance rehearsal and was blown away by the passion and emotion that was performed throughout. He realized he wanted to achieve the same passion and emotion through the art of dance, and so he auditioned for Ensemble Español and started as scholarship dancer in 2016. In 2017, he became an apprentice to the Ensemble Español. Young still dances hip hop in addition to Spanish dance and is learning and growing as a dancer.

2017-18 ENSEMBLE ESPAÑOL SPANISH DANCE YOUTH COMPANY

Senior Division: Katrina Bartels, Catherine Beza, Laila Galecki, Kamila Galecki, Abigail Mosquera, Yasmeen Quinones, Esmeralda Robledo, Heroly Rodriguez, Yisrael Spurgeon, Alyssa Teijeiro-Ficht

ENSEMBLE ESPAÑOL PRODUCTION STAFF

ANNA CZAJUN, Ballet Mistress/Production Assistant, received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU). Trained as a pianist, yet choosing dance as a profession, Ms. Czajun has performed with numerous companies in her native Chicago, notably the Chicago Moving Company, the Joel Hall Dancers, the Arve Connection, and the Chicago Repertory Dance Ensemble. She has created numerous dance works for many Chicago companies and independent artists. While with the Chicago Repertory Dance Ensemble, she was their Educational Resource Director, conducting dance workshops and creating lecture-demonstration programs nationwide for primary, secondary, and university students. Ms. Czajun has been on the dance faculties of the Chicago Dance Center, the New School for the Performing Arts, the Lou Conte Dance Studio, Barat College, and the Gus Giordano Dance Center. In addition, she taught the ballet and modern dance courses for the Latin School of Chicago. During her 29 year tenure at the Latin School she directed, choreographed and produced their annual dance productions.

MARTHA MONTES, Pilates/Yoga company instructor, Wellness/ Fitness Specialist. A native from Mexico, Martha is licensed by the American College of Sport Medicine (ACSM) as a Health Fitness Instructor since 2001 and holds a Master’s in Exercise Science from Northeastern Illinois University; in 2010 she completed a yoga teacher training through Yoga Alliance. She has over twenty years of experience in the wellness field helping people reach their goals through a complete mindful approach that includes proper fitness, wellness and nutrition; she has worked with athletes, dancers and fitness enthusiasts of all ages and abilities. Her methods have been proven very successful on weight management, body re-shaping and life-style change. Martha founded and currently operates Chicago Latin Fitness which partners with the Chicago Park District, City Colleges and Chicago Public Schools among other organizations to provide wellness coaching throughout Chicago and suburbs. She has been part of the faculty at Northeastern Illinois University and currently is the Associate Director for Campus Recreation. Martha is honored to be working with Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater.

STONEWOLF PRODUCTIONS

DUSTIN DERRY, Lighting Designer/Production Stage Manager, or ‘D’ as many call him, has been bringing his unique blend of color, light, technology, and imagery to theatres and dance companies nationally and internationally since 2001, when he graduated from National-Louis University. While Dustin is exuberantly celebrating his first season with Ensemble Espanol, his work has been showcased with a number of dance and theatre companies including the Moscow Ballet, Trinity Irish Dancers, Deeply Rooted Dance, Fix valley Repertory Theatre, Porchlight Music Theatre, Danceworks Chicago, Muntu Dance Theatre, Natya Dance Theatre, and many others. Dustin is the founder and co-owner of Stonewolf Studios whose mission is to bring cutting edge technology to all dance companies big and small and to be a major driving force behind the transition to the use of ‘Green’ technologies like LED Lighting in the entertainment industry. Dustin is also a proud member of United Scenic Artists Local 829. Dustin would like to take a moment to say thank you to his mother for always pushing him to pursue his dreams of being a theatre professional against all odds. Finally ‘D’ asks everyone to follow the advice of Gandhi and ‘Be the Change You Wish to See in the World.’

SARAH LACKNER, Technical Director/Lighting Designer, is the technical director at the Ruth Page Center. She stage manages at Chicago Repertory Ballet, Nomi Dance Chicago, American Spanish Dance and Music Festival 2018 | Flamenco Passion 21
Inaside Chicago Dance, Muntu Dance Theater, and Natya Dance Theatre, as well as various music and dance festivals around Chicago. When not herding cats, Sarah designs lights for a variety of dance companies in Chicago, including: Harvest Chicago Contemporary Dance Festival, Chicago Repertory Ballet, Deeply Rooted Dance Theater, Muntu Dance Theatre, Natya Dance Theatre, and Clinard Dance Theatre.

JoséPHINE DICESARE, Manager of Operations, is a native Chicagoan of Italian descent and received her BA in sociology from NEIU in 2005 and her MA in educational leadership in May 2010. As the manager of operations for Ensemble Español, DiCesare assists the company in numerous ways, including development, community, and educational outreach programs; event organization; and administration; as well as coordinating the American Spanish Dance and Music Festival.

CAROLYN AGUILA, Director of Development, has worked with the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and The Mercury Theater, and represented the late Pulitzer Prize winner and Illinois Poet Laureate Gwendolyn Brooks. Aguila’s experience in arts programming and presenting now serves her in the role of development director for the Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater, where she manages and supports the company’s funding programs. She is a published poet and spoken word artist. Aguila is a native Chicagoan, and is therefore deeply honored to be part of one of the city’s most dynamic arts organizations.

We wish to acknowledge all the dancers, staff and volunteers who have been a part of the Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater over the past 42 years and have contributed to making this Company and Center the “International Jewel” that it is. ¡Gracias!

CASTING CALL

for the lead role (full time) in

BIRTH OF A SALESMAN*

Supporting roles (part time) are also being cast.

Show is open ended and has been running in Chicago since 1996.

Male or Female actors may apply. All ages will be considered. Candidates must be comfortable in front of a live audience and be able to handle the physical demands of daily performances. Improv experience is a plus.

Please send bio and headshot (resume and cover letter) to salesjob@footlights.com

* This is a career opportunity to sell advertising in Footlights programs just like the one in your hands.
SUPPORT

We are proud to support the Ensemble Espanol Dance Company. Thank you for promoting Hispanic culture and history through musical arts. Enjoy the Show!

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We are very grateful to all of our supporters who have helped the Ensemble realize its goals, and extend its programs. Your generosity produces the next generation of dancers! Thank you! Contributions reflect donations made May 10, 2017 through May 2, 2018.
ENSEMBLE ESPAÑOL DONATION PROGRAMS

The Ensemble Español’s continued growth and success is a tribute to our audience members and contributors. ¡Gracias!

**Raised in Chicago, Ready for the World**
The Ensemble Español is delighted to announce that we have received a major Growth Grant from Caerus Foundation, Inc. This grant has the potential of raising $1.5 million through a matching campaign over the next three years 2016-19.

**3 Ways to Make Your Match Donation:**
1.) Complete donation reply card in lobby hospitality table
2.) Log on to www.EnsembleEspanol.org and click on DONATE
3.) Visit our director of development, Carolyn Aguila or executive board members or staff in lobby.

For more information call Ms. Aguila at (773) 442-5999 or email at C-Aguila1@neiu.edu

**Paso a Paso Arts Education Initiative**
Last year, the Ensemble’s arts education and community outreach programs served a record 31,892 young students in Chicago and the Midwest. Your support means more arts programs for children and youth in all of our communities! A generous gift as an Amigo/a, Heritage Circle, Contributor and/or Individual Sponsor, will allow us to continue to provide classes, lectures/demonstrations, specially-designed performances, and intensive dance residencies to many more interested students.

We gratefully accept your generous checks payable to Ensemble Español

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Northeastern Illinois University
5500 N. St. Louis Avenue
Chicago, IL 60625

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**ZELDA KOLBER SENIOR PROGRAM - “Zelda’s Fund”**
This program brings Spain into retirement and nursing center throughout the Chicago area. Seniors have the opportunity to watch performances, learn dance steps, celebrate with family and friends during the "Night of Spain," and then travel to Northeastern Illinois University for a special concert. Honoring the memory of our beloved supporter, Zelda Kobler, this program exposes underserved seniors to the arts.

**ENDOWMENT - Honor the Past, Secure the Future**
For over four decades, Dame Libby Komaiko, the Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater and Center, the Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Youth Company, guest artists and partner, Northeastern Illinois University, have inspired, entertained and educated millions of people from around the world, who come together to celebrate the culture and art of Spain. Tonight, as you share in the passion that is Spain in America, you can help to secure the future of our cultural treasure.

Your gift to the Ensemble Español Endowment Fund will support and preserve the concerts, classes, residencies, workshops, scholarships and Festivals that have made us the premier Center for Spanish dance and Music in the United States for over thirty seven years.

Please send your check, payable to the NEIU Foundation
(Note Ensemble Español Endowment on the memo line) to:

The Development Office | Northeastern Illinois University, 5500 N. St Louis Avenue, Chicago, IL 60625
Weekly Children’s Flamenco Dance Classes for the community
Northeastern Illinois University Dance Studio, J Building
Next class session Tuesdays, July 11 – August 15 (six classes = one session), $75
Ages 4-6 6:00 pm – 6:50 pm
Ages 7-12 Beg. 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Ages 7-12 Int. 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

To register, please contact Joséphine DiCesare at 773-442-5916

After School Matters – Spanish Dance Theater Experience
Do you know a teen that would like to learn Spanish dance and earn money for the summer? The Ensemble Español is partnering with After School Matters and is offering Apprenticeship opportunities for teens. The program meets for four days a week for six weeks; teens earn a stipend for their participation.

Requirements:
Must be between the ages of 14-19
Attend a Chicago Public School and Resident of the City of Chicago

For More information please contact Julia Hinojosa
773-442-5926 or katia@ensembleespanol.org

Weekly Adult’s Flamenco Dance Classes for the community
Northeastern Illinois University Dance Studio, J Building
Tuesdays starting in Fall 2018 (six classes = one session)
Levels I and II 7:15 pm – 8:15 pm

Please visit www.EnsembleEspanol.org or call 773-442-5916 for a Fall 2018 class schedule.
The Midwest region theatre community’s fundraising effort in the fight against AIDS.

For more information or to make a donation please call 312.332.0518
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