



NEWS RELEASE

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"As the theatre begins to vibrate with accumulated energy, you get the feeling that they could dance just about any genre with jaw-dropping style. Which makes their unique expression of Cuban culture in all its profound and complex glory all the more special." - Kathleen Smith, NOW Magazine Toronto

The Soraya Welcomes Cuba's Legendary Malpaso Dance Company

**With Soraya West Coast premiere by Azure Barton
And Live Music Performed by Arturo O'Farrill and the Afro Latin Jazz Ensemble**

Thu, Oct 13 at 8pm

Tickets start at \$39 and are on sale now at www.TheSoraya.org

(Los Angeles, CA) Oct 4, 2022 —Cuba's celebrated **Malpaso Dance Company** comes to The Soraya for the first time on Thursday, Oct. 13 with three major pieces that capture the soul of the island nation, its aspirations, and its proud cultural identity alike. In its "Signature Series" style, The Soraya once again brings live music together with dance as Arturo O'Farrill and the Afro Latin Jazz Ensemble perform "24 Hours and a Dog" for the company which was created by Malpaso Artistic Director Osnel Delgado.

The company also performs "woman with water" by Matts Ek, and "Stillness in Bloom," a new piece by Canadian-born choreographer Azure Barton, co-commissioned by The Soraya. First performed in Havana in December 2021, "Stillness in Bloom" is a timely exploration of isolation and longed-for reunions.

Tickets start at \$39 and are on sale now at www.TheSoraya.org.

"In just a decade, The Soraya has become a home for the best in dance presentation in Southern California," said The Soraya's Executive and Artistic Director Thor Steingraber. "Our 'Signature Series' highlights the best in what we present on The Soraya's stage. I am delighted to welcome Malpaso Dance Company presenting "Stillness in Bloom" which The Soraya co-commissioned, and Arturo O'Farrill and the Afro Cuban All-Stars who will provide live music for

the evening as well, another key component in The Soraya's 'Signature Series' programming. This night of dance and music will be a true celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month!"

For Media Tickets and interview requests, please contact The Soraya Communications Associate [Marie Estrada](#), or PR Consultant [Gary Murphy](#).

About Malpaso Dance Company

In the 10 years since its establishment in 2012, Malpaso Dance Company has become one of the most sought-after Cuban dance companies with a growing international profile. Emphasizing a collaborative creative process, Malpaso is committed to working with top international choreographers while also nurturing new voices in Cuban choreography. The company tours with 11 dancers and is led by its original three founders: resident choreographer and Artistic Director Osnel Delgado, Executive Director Fernando Sáez, and dancer and co-founder Daile Carrazana.

Malpaso has commissioned original works from a number of prominent international choreographers, including Ron K. Brown ("Why You Follow"), Trey McIntyre ("Under Fire"), Azure Barton ("Indomitable Waltz" and "Stillness in Bloom"), Emmy-award winning Sonya Tayeh ("Face the Torrent") and Robyn Mineko Williams ("Elemental").

As a means of foregrounding Cuban choreographers, Malpaso recently has also world-premiered a work by company member Daile Carrazana ("*Nana para un Insomnio*" – or "*Lullaby for Insomnia*") bolstering the list of long-toured pieces by Artistic Director Delgado, notably, "*Ocaso*" as well as "*24 Hours and a Dog*" and "*Dreaming of Lions*," which are often accompanied live by Grammy® Award-winning, Cuban-American composer/pianist Arturo O'Farrill and the Afro Latin Jazz Ensemble.

The company's repertory includes "*Tabula Rasa*" by world-renowned Israeli choreographer Ohad Naharin, who traveled to Cuba in spring of 2018 specifically to work one on one with Malpaso dancers to crystalize the re-staging of this seldom performed piece; and "*woman with water*" by the distinguished Swedish choreographer Mars Ek, who also travelled to Havana for the work's premiere at Martí Theatre on December 2021.

About the Malpaso Dance Company Program

"Stillness in Bloom" (2021) (21 min)

Choreographer	Azure Barton
Choreographic Assistants	Jonathan Emanuell Alsberry, Daileidys Carrazana
Music	Ambrose Akinmusire
Lighting Design	Nicole Pearce
Dancers	Company

Stillness in Bloom was co-commissioned by Fall for Dance North, Toronto; Dancers' Workshop; and the Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts (The Soraya), California State University, Northridge.

"woman with water" (2021) (10 minutes)

Choreographer	Mats Ek
Choreographic Assistant	Ana Laguna
Music	Fleshquartet
Lighting Design	Ellen Ruge
Dancers	Dunia Acosta, Osnel Delgado

"woman with water" was co-commissioned by The Cleveland Foundation and DANCECleveland, and La Jolla Music Society. Special creation support was provided in honour of Karen Brooks Hopkins, and also generously received from Susan Dickler and Sig van Raan. Additional creation support was provided by the Swedish Institute and the Swedish Embassy in Cuba.

Intermission

"24 Hours and a Dog" (Suite) (2013) (36 minutes, including 5 minute overture)

Choreographer	Osnel Delgado, in collaboration with the dancers.
Music	Arturo O'Farrill and The Afro Latin Jazz Ensemble
Lighting Design	Al Crawford
Costume Design	Eric Grass
Dancers	Company

Overture: 24 Hours in a Dog's life Ceviche/Walking the Dog Tintal Tintal Deo/Chased by a Dog She Goes Through the Fair/Daydream(duet) Tanguango/G Street (Finale)

Music Credits

24 Hours in a Dog's Life by Arturo O'Farrill 2014 (commissioned by Malpaso Dance Company); *"Tabla Rasa"* Excerpt from the 2nd Movement of *Tintal Tintal Deo* by Arturo O'Farrill 2007 (commissioned by Latin Fiesta with support from The Philadelphia Music Project, a program of The Philadelphia Center for Arts and Culture funded by The Pew Charitable Trusts and administered by The University of the Arts); *Tanguano* by Astor Piazzolla, arranged by Michael Philip Mossman.

What: Malpaso Dance Company

When: Thursday, October 13 at 8pm

Tickets: \$39-\$94 For all ticket information visit www.thesoraya.org or call the Ticket Office at (818) 677-3000.

Where: Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts (The Soraya)
18111 Nordhoff Street, Northridge, CA 91330.

Website: www.thesoraya.org

Phone: 818-677-3000

About The Soraya's Signature Series

The ongoing Signature Series embraces all the art forms, and by shedding series structured by artistic disciplines, the 17 performances in the Signature Series present new programming opportunities. From pieces produced entirely by The Soraya, to Jazz titans and Broadway favorites, the series also gives patrons more flexibility in choosing which performances to enjoy.

Highlights of The Soraya's 2022-23 season feature the World Premiere of ***Treelogy***, a three-part musical reflection on California's wildfires and their impact on the state's three beloved trees species – the Joshua tree, the Giant Sequoia, and the Coastal Redwood. The concert features three original compositions by **Billy Childs**, **Steven Mackey**, and **Gabriella Smith**, commissioned by The Soraya and performed by artist-in-residence **Étienne Gara** and **Delirium Musicum**. Other Soraya commissioned work to be presented this season include a new piece by L.A. based composer **Julia Adolphe** to be performed by the **Sitkovetsky Trio**, "Invocations" composed by System of a Down's **Serj Tankian** and performed by the rockstar and a full orchestra, and new big-band musical arrangements for the **Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra** featuring rising Jazz star **Samara Joy** in her Soraya debut.

In addition, other events to be found solely at The Soraya are a musical tribute to American activist **Dolores Huerta** produced by The Soraya, the continuation of the *Hecho en las Américas* series featuring **Luis Enrique + C4 Trio** with special guest Grammy Award winner **Nella**, and pianist **Emily Bear** joins **Los Angeles Jewish Symphony** to perform the *Premiere of Suite from the Video Game Syberia: The World Before*.

About the Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts (The Soraya)

Located on the vibrant and diverse campus of California State University in the heart of Los Angeles' San Fernando Valley, the **Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts (The Soraya)** continues its vigorous commitment to innovating, exceling, and amplifying access by offering a wide variety of performances that reflect LA's many distinctive communities and featuring new and original work from the Los Angeles region as well as artists from around the world.

The Soraya's 2022-23 season offers a joy-filled reunion featuring a vibrant program of nearly 50 classical and popular music, dance, theater, family, and international events that will further establish it as one of the top arts companies in Southern California that uplifts and inspires its audiences.

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