

ENSEMBLE
SPAÑOL★
Spanish Dance Theater
IN RESIDENCE AT NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

2019

The Year of the Rose

Impact Report





The

SEASON

of

CULTURE

Ensemble Español brings the heat

Even in the final days of her life, Dame Libby Komaiko remained involved in almost every aspect of Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater, the company she founded in 1975.

Executive director Jorge Pérez, who started training with Komaiko in 1985, sat at her bedside in the ICU, consulting about music and costumes for an upcoming show. “We worked harder because we knew that the company was keeping her going,” Pérez says.

Komaiko died in February, at 69, and in her memory Ensemble Español pressed ahead, trying to match her passion and tenacity. “There was no downtime to mourn the way you normally would,” Pérez says. “We just kept working.”

The company is dedicating its appearance at the Auditorium Theatre's Made in Chicago dance series to Komaiko, as it did in June with its American Spanish Dance and Music Festival. Like the six world premieres featured there, this repertory concert will showcase the company's trademark flamboyant costuming and kaleidoscopic lighting.

The program, a double bill with the Latino-focused outfit Cerqua Rivera, includes artistic director Irma Suárez Ruiz's *Pasión Oculta*, a high-octane modern flamenco piece, and Komaiko's *Ecos de España*, a boisterous folkloric dance set to the Russian composer Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov's *Capriccio Espagnol*. The night also marks the return of the company's premier dancer, Claudia Pizarro, an exhilarating performer who was on leave for part of last season. "The theme is passion," says Pérez of the lineup. "It's hot, it's Latin. This is the hottest ticket in Chicago."

*Published September 17, 2019 by **Lauren Warnecke**.*

*Photograph by **Stephanie Bassos**.*



Perform

Through Dance

- 19** dancers in the Adult Company
 - 23** dancers in the Youth Company
 - 4** Concerts with **1,730** in attendance
 - 2** Sold out Holiday Concerts seating **860**
- Total Audience served: **12,000**



Prepare

Through Education in the Paso a Paso Program

Tales of Spain

Presented 5 performances
at NEIU auditorium

Ritmos de España

Presented 7 performances at CPS schools

Residencies

Conducted 6 Residencies at CPS schools serving 220 students

**Taught more than 8,000 students
from the Greater Chicagoland Area**



DANCE magazine Introducing Our 2020 “25 to Watch”

Dance Magazine / Dec 16, 2019

Luis Beltran has an intrepid mix of charisma, confidence and sex appeal. He seduces audiences with a fair share of tantalizing machismo, but it’s not boorish, and it’s balanced by a blithe and jaunty stage presence in Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater’s folk dance repertoire. Beltran manages to find the nuances in each Spanish style — folkloric, flamenco, classical and contemporary — but shines most in the company’s big, bold, unabashed and spectacularly over-the-top group works.

The native Ecuadorian started dancing with an outreach program hosted by Chicago’s Ensemble Español at age 7, then rose through the ranks to join the company in his late teens. Now 25, he’s on track to rise to the top of a company whose Spanish dancers are among the best in the world. — **Lauren Warnecke**



Preserve

Through Workshops

Hosted **300** Spanish
Dance Workshops

Taught more than **8,000** students
from the Greater Chicagoland Area

Provided **20** Professional
Development classes to our youth and
adult companies from Spanish Dance Professionals



Promote Through Collaborations

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MEMBERSHIPS



MEDIA SPONSORS



COLLABORATORS



Chicago Tribune

Best in Chicago dance in 2019: Stunning performances in a year of transition



*Northeastern Illinois University
Auditorium, Chicago*



*Auditorium Theatre,
Chicago*



*North Shore Center for
the Performing Arts, Skokie*

"Passionate"
Dance Magazine

"Fiery Form" - "Theatrical Dream"
Chicago Sun-Times

"Stunning"
St. Louis Today

"Innovative"
See Chicago Dance

"Breathtaking" - "Sensual" - "Greatest Hits"
Chicago Tribune

"Wowed Audience" - "Amazing"
The New York Times



*Harris Theater for Music
and Dance, Chicago*



*Touhill Center for the
Performing Arts, St. Louis*



*Blue Bell Auditorium,
Pennsylvania*

Highlights



Closed the
**Raised in Chicago,
Ready for the World**

Campaign 2 months ahead of schedule
raising a total of **\$1,502,000**

Reached nearly **50,000 individuals**
with our artistic and educational programming

Implemented our first **summer dance
camp for children** age 7 to 12

7 World Premiere Choreographies

Launched the **Dame Libby Komaiko Legacy Fund**,
a fundraiser campaign dedicated to ensuring that Dame Libby's
legacy will continue through the work of Ensemble Español



HIGHLIGHTING JULIA HINOJOSA

Born and raised in Chicago.
Principal Dancer and Artistic Director
of the Ensemble Español Spanish Dance
Youth Company.



ABOUT JULIA

She coordinates and teaches for the **Ensemble Español's** educational outreach programs at schools throughout 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

She currently works as Assistant Director of Education Programs at Arts+Public Life an initiative of **UChicago Arts**.

2000 Begins her Spanish dance studies with Dame Libby Komaiko

2005 Becomes a Company Dancer

2014 Becomes a full-time dancer

2017 Is awarded with the *Negocios Now 40 Under 40*

Youth Company



Founded in **1985** by Dame Libby Komaiko and Lillian C. Heminover, executive board member, and Fine Arts coordinator at Frederick Funston School, the training program offers intensive training to serious, young artists.

The **Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Youth Company** serves as the pre-professional training program to the organization's professional company.

It's comprised of two divisions: the **Junior Division**, for ages between 10 and 18; and, the **Senior Division**, which is for 18+. Auditions are held annually.

They routinely perform at the American Spanish Dance and Music Festival, at the annual Holiday Concerts and for the Our Chance to Dance Youth Festival as well as performances throughout Chicago and Illinois.

In 2012, the Youth Company undertook a summer Flamenco intensive program in Madrid, Spain. Learning from masters such as Carmela Greco, María Torres, Joaquín Ruiz, Paloma Gómez and Carolina Arias.

Youth Company dancers receive a scholarship worth \$10,000 annually which includes training with local professional Spanish Dance instructors and guest artists from Spain, performance opportunities, costumes and rehearsal wear. As part of their scholarship, dancers are required to maintain a 3.0 GPA while adhering to a rigorous rehearsal schedule, making them excellent role models in their community.



PASO A PASO

Arts Education Program



Provides multi-formatted instruction in four styles of Spanish dance, including Flamenco, Folkloric, Classical, and Escuela Bolera to young students and dancers, stressing the historical, cultural, and creative contributions of Spanish dance to the arts.

BAILAMOS! RESIDENCIES

An in-school standards based residency program that emphasizes Spanish dance technique for personal expression, health, well-being, teamwork and creativity. Based on an eight week schedule and suitable for kindergarten through high school.

TABLAO TALKS

A dancer, musician and / or vocalist guest speaker comes to your classroom during lunch to share the history and styles of Spanish dance in an intimate and casual way.

RITMOS DE ESPAÑA

A 45 minute lecture / demo led by a professional dancer. This performance is suitable for kindergarten through high school and perfect for small to large assemblies.

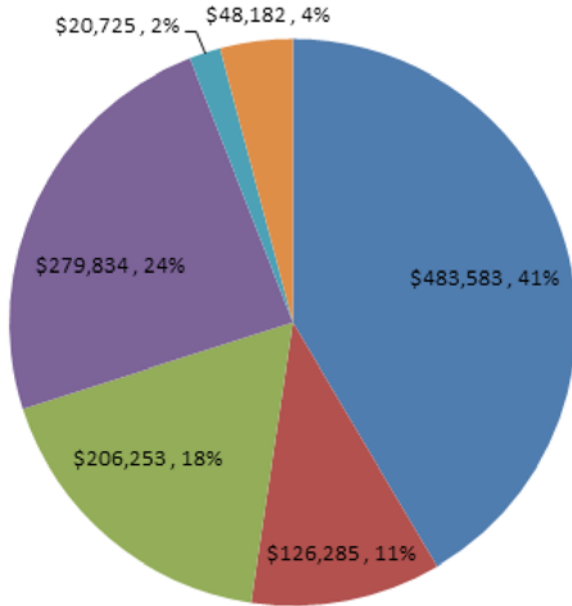
TALES OF SPAIN

This lecture / demo performance takes place at our NEIU Auditorium and features 8 - 18 professional dancers leading audiences through the variety of Spanish dance styles and their significance on traditional and contemporary culture.



2019 Income

July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019

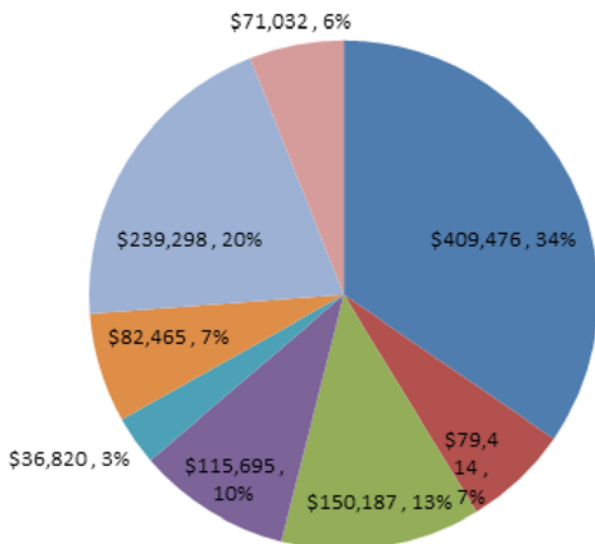


- In Kind
- Government
- Earned Income
- Foundations
- Corporations
- Individuals

Total: \$1,164,862

2019 Expense

July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019



- General and Administrative
- Educational Residencies and Performances
- Instructors
- Rehearsals
- National Tours and Performances
- Illinois Performances
- Festival
- Fundraising

Total: \$1,184,387

Interim Board of Directors



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Monica Saucedo
Principal Dancer
Ensemble Español



José Torres
First Dancer
Ensemble Español

Youth Company Board



Sonya Dekhtyar
MBA student at the University
of Chicago School of Business



Michelle Mouhelis
High School Spanish
Teacher for District 211



Melissa Mouhelis
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Fredy Rocha
Compliance Manager
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Leticia Valadez
Principal at Melrose Park
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Chicago Tribune

Dance Chicagoans of the Year:

**Jorge Perez and Irma Suárez Ruiz lead
Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater forward**

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by **Lauren Warnecke**, Chicago Tribune*