



JUNE 2015

PRESS RELEASE

## CARLOS ACOSTA'S CUBANÍA RETURNS TO THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE THIS SUMMER

**CUBANÍA**

Monday 27 July - Sunday 2 August



Royal Ballet Principal Guest Artist **Carlos Acosta** brings his exuberant mixed programme of dance, *Cubanía*, back to the Royal Opera House main stage following its sell-out premiere last summer. Acosta curates and stars in *Cubanía*, an evening of vibrant Cuban dance inspired by his homeland featuring award-winning contemporary dance accompanied by a live onstage Cuban house band.

Uniting dancers and choreographers from **The Royal Ballet**, **Rambert**, **Cuban National Ballet** and **Danza Contemporanea de Cuba**, Acosta will open the evening in style alongside **Pieter Symonds** in *Derrumba* by Cuban choreographer **Miguel Altunaga** (Rambert). Act 1 will also see Acosta partner Royal Ballet Principal **Zenaida Yanowsky** in **Edwaard Liang**'s poignant and heartfelt duet *Sight Unseen*.

**Danza Contemporánea de Cuba**, the national contemporary dance company of Cuba, perform the high-speed and energetic *Ecuación* by Cuban dance star, and Olivier nominee, **George Céspedes**. Completing a line-up of stellar Cuban talent, dancer **Alexander Varona** performs contemporary choreographer **Russell Maliphant's** striking male dance solo *Flux*.

In the second half of the evening Acosta presents his Olivier award nominated *Tocororo Suite*, a semi-autobiographical piece set in the streets of Havana, re-invented especially for the Royal Opera House main stage. Acosta is joined by members of **Danza Contemporánea de Cuba**, and **Veronica Corveas**, principal with the **Cuban National Ballet**, as he weaves a narrative told through classical, contemporary and Afro-Cuban dance – all to the accompaniment of the live onstage house band.

Acosta commented “After *Cubanía's* **sell-out season last summer I'm looking** forward to bringing a taste of Havana back to London for the second time. With live Cuban music these passionate dances inspired by the mixed-heritage of my homeland create a piece that I am proud to share with audiences this summer.”

*Cubanía* is part of a week of shows inspired by Cuba at the Royal Opera House, alongside **Buena Vista Social Club's** sold-out performance on Thursday 30 July.

#### PROGRAMME

- Carlos Acosta and Pieter Symonds perform *Derrumbe* choreographed by Miguel Altunaga
- Danza Contemporánea de Cuba perform *Ecuación* choreographed by George Céspedes
- Alexander Varona performs *Flux* choreographed by Russell Maliphant
- Carlos Acosta and Royal Ballet Principal Zenaida Yanowsky perform *Sight Unseen* choreographed by Edwaard Liang
- Carlos Acosta choreographs *Tocororo Suite*, which he will perform with Danza Contemporánea de Cuba

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## NOTES TO EDITORS:

### CUBANÍA

Monday 27, Tuesday 28, Wednesday 29, Friday 31 July, Saturday 1 August at 7:30pm  
Sunday 2 August at 5pm

### BOX OFFICE

0207 304 4000 / [www.roh.org.uk](http://www.roh.org.uk)

Tickets £10-£80

The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London

**Carlos Acosta** was born in Havana. He trained at the National Ballet School of Cuba and won the Gold Medal at the Prix de Lausanne (1990). He was a Principal with English National Ballet (1991–2), danced with National Ballet of Cuba under Alicia Alonso (1992–3) and was a Principal with Houston Ballet under Ben Stevenson (1993–8). He joined The Royal Ballet in 1998 and became a Principal Guest Artist in 2003. In 2007 he won the Olivier Award for Outstanding Achievement in Dance **for his season at Sadler's Wells**. Following the success of his production *Don Quixote* for The Royal Ballet in 2013, Acosta is now choreographing a new one-act *Carmen* for the Company to premiere in October 2015.

**Miguel Altunaga** trained at National School of Art, Havana, and joined Rambert in 2007 after six years with the Danza Contemporánea de Cuba where he performed as a principal dancer. An up-and-coming choreographer, Miguel has created work for the National School of Ballet, for bands Simply Red and The Zutons, for Carlos Acosta at the London Coliseum and for Rambert's *Evening of new choreography*. He created the **original role in Acosta's *Tocororo: A Cuban Tale*** when it was first performed in 2004.

**George Céspedes** studied dance and choreography at the National School of Dance. He joined Danza Contemporánea de Cuba as a dancer in 1998 when he graduated, and as a **Principal dancer has performed in more than 19 works in the company's** repertory. He is also a choreographer creating many works for Danza Contemporanea and for Ballet Nacional de Cuba, the National Ballet School and the National School of Dance.

**Russell Maliphant trained at The Royal Ballet School and graduated into Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet before leaving to pursue a career in independent dance. He formed Russell Maliphant Company in 1996 and has also worked with renowned companies and artists including Sylvie Guillem, Robert Lepage, Isaac Julian, Balletboyz and Lyon Opera Ballet. He became an Associate Artist of Sadler's Wells in 2005.**

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