



CHE MALAMBO



 PEACE
CENTER

FEBRUARY 18

CHE MALAMBO

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2020 • 7 PM
GUNTER THEATRE

Concept, Choreography, Staging, and Musical Composition by Gilles Brinas.
Choreography developed in collaboration with the artists of Che Malambo using their artistic input and individual techniques.
Lighting Concept and Design by Gilles Brinas.

Rhythm and Music Composition inspired by traditional Argentine folk music and performed by the artists of Che Malambo.

Malambo is a centuries-old contest dance traditionally practiced by gauchos, or South American cowboys. Che Malambo reinvigorates the unique tradition in a fiery, thrilling spectacle of percussive dance and music.

Artists of Che Malambo:

Federico Arrua, Fernando Castro, Francisco Ciales, Claudio Diaz, Matias Gallardo,
Federico Gareis, Fernando Gimenez, Matias Gimenez, Walter Kochanowski,
Gabriel Lopez, Franco Martinez, Matias Rivas

BIOGRAPHIES

The Argentine company **Che Malambo** excites audiences through precise footwork and rhythmic stomping, drumming of the bombos, and singing and whirling boleadoras (lassos with stones on the end). Presenting a thrilling, percussive dance and music spectacle, the company's work celebrates the unique South American cowboy tradition of the gaucho. This powerhouse all-male company of gauchos is directed by French choreographer and former ballet dancer Gilles Brinas.

Like many who fall under the spell of traditional dances, Brinas is fascinated and troubled by the Malambo. He flew to Buenos Aires in search of this dance so typical of the Pampa region of Argentina. Brinas was drawn to the particular rhythms, the haunting characters, and the lonely expressions of the gaucho who spends his life on horseback. The Malambo is filled with deeply personal solos reflecting this rich tradition. Brinas was inspired by the talented artists he found in Buenos Aires and was moved to create the company Che Malambo from the best Malambo dancers in Argentina.

After premiering in Paris in 2007 and sporadically touring around the world, Che Malambo embarked on a three-city U.S. tour in 2013. In 2015, the company was invited for a limited engagement performing on the opening night of New York City Center's annual sold-out series, Fall for Dance. Since 2016, the company has performed in over 100 cities in 11 countries in Europe, Asia, and the Middle East, including four North American tours and week-long runs in London, Berlin, Cologne, and a 60-performance, three-month run in Paris, France.

Che Malambo brings fiery Malambo traditions, live music, and virtuosic dancing to the contemporary stage for an exhilarating and entertaining show that is perfect for the entire family. Danced solely by men, the Malambo began in the 17th century as competitive duels that would challenge skills of agility, strength, and dexterity. Zapateo, their fast-paced footwork, is inspired by the rhythm of galloping horses in their native Argentina.

Gilles Brinas – A renowned dancer and choreographer, Gilles Brinas performed with many prestigious companies in Europe including: Ballet de l’Opéra de Lyon (under the direction of Vittorio Biagi and Miklo Sparemblek), the Ballet of the Twentieth Century by Maurice Béjart at La Scala in Milan (choreographer Amedeo Amodio), the Grand Ballet de France, and in the company of Robert Hossein (choreographer George Skibine). He has also worked with Peter Goss, Anne Beranger, and Jean Golovin. In 1979, Brinas founded the DEA Ballet and won the prize of humor in the 11th Bagnolet competition. Then, in 1990 he was honored by the Charles Oulmont Foundation. In 2002, Brinas choreographed Bar Unión, a tango show with Sylvie Peron for Beinnale de la Danse. His teachers and mentors include Lucia Petrova, Raymond Franchetti, Andrej Glegolski, Solange Golovin, Serge Golovin, Karol Toth, Vittorio Biagi, Milko Sparemblek, and Peter Goss. Brinas has also practiced Aikido with Hirokatsu Kobayashi and André Cognard, and has studied Noh with the living national treasure Hideo Kanze.

Program content provided by Che Malambo.

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