



L U N A ● N E G R A

PRESS RELEASE

January 27, 2005

LUNA NEGRA DANCE THEATER CELEBRATES CONTEMPORARY LATINO CHOREOGRAPHERS

Chicago—**Luna Negra Dance Theater**, Chicago's premier professional dance company devoted to the creation and presentation of Latino contemporary dance, presents its spring concert, an exceptional performance of the work of four critically acclaimed Latino choreographers at the **Athenaeum Theatre on March 5 and 6, 2005**. The concert features a **WORLD PREMIERE** by BESSIE-award winner **Pedro Ruiz**, a reprise of three acclaimed pieces by Luna Negra artistic director **Eduardo Vilaro**, as well as recent work by Hubbard Street veteran **Ron DeJesus** and masterpiece by the late celebrated Venezuelan choreographer, **Vicente Nebrada**.

Luna Negra's March concert program will include:

***Sonetos de Amor (Love Sonnets)* by Pedro Ruiz**-A World Premiere exclusively created for Luna Negra. Inspired by the words of the poet Pablo Neruda, Ruiz has created a lyrical and romantic piece set to a range of music from Mexico to South America.

***Cantos par una Noche Viajera (Songs for a Night Journey)* by Eduardo Vilaro**-An exquisite ensemble dance set to Dvorak's *Gypsy Songs* sung by soprano Michelle Areyzaga and accompanied on piano by Ravinia Festival's Welz Kauffman. It was premiered at Ravinia Festival in 2004.

***Vidrio* by Eduardo Vilaro**-A romantic duet set to Rachmaninoff's *Vocalize*, sung by soprano Michelle Areyzaga and accompanied on piano by Ravinia Festival's Welz Kauffman. It was premiered at Ravinia Festival in 2004.

***Late...after Siesta* by Eduardo Vilaro**-A magical duet that uses gestures, both funny and horrific, to expose a couple's emotional ambiguity and struggles to find connection. It is set to music by Alejandro Jaen as sung by Chavela Vargas.

***The Last 12 Minutes* by Ron DeJesus**-A deep and intense piece that imagines the choices we make and the emotions we experience to get to acceptance and release in both life and death. It was premiered at Dance Chicago, 2004.

***Batucada Fantastica* by Vicente Nebrada**-A classic work by the late Venezuelan master choreographer. It is a stunning series of eight solos that culminate in a riot of ensemble dancing. Set to the music of Luciano Perrone, this piece captures the exuberant energy of Brazil's Carnival.

The Spring performances will be **Saturday, March 5 at 8:00pm** and **Sunday, March 6 at 3:00pm**. The Athenaeum Theatre is located at 2936 N. Southport in Chicago. Tickets are \$15-\$20 for adults and \$10 for children. Tickets may be purchased at Ticketmaster at (312) 902-1500 or www.ticketmaster.com and The Athenaeum Theatre Box Office (773) 935-6860.

For more information about Luna Negra Dance Theater visit www.lunanegra.org or call (312) 337-6882.

Luna Negra Dance Theater Spring Season is supported in part by Exelon, proud parent of ComEd.

Luna Negra Dance Theater is supported by The Chicago Community Trust, The Joyce Foundation, The Mac Arthur Fund for Arts and Culture at The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation, The Dorothy and Gaylord Donnelley Foundation, The Mayer and Morris Kaplan Family Foundation, The Alphawood Foundation, Capri Capital, a CityArts Program 2 Grant from the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency. Luna Negra Dance Theater is in residence at the Ruth Page Center for the Arts.