



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 8, 2015

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Daniel Arenas to Be Presented Best Colombian Lead Actor Abroad Award

The Best Colombian Lead Actor Abroad Award will be presented to the renowned **Daniel Arenas** by the Consulate General of Colombia on **July 18, 2015 at the Independence of Colombia 20th Anniversary Gala** on behalf of the Colombian community of Texas and the hosting non-profit educational organizations, Building Education Culture & Achievement (**BECA**) and the Colombian Folkloric Ballet. The Colombian community of Texas is very proud to have Mr. Arenas as an excellent representative of Colombia's talent abroad.

Mr. Arenas made his film debut in 2003. Since then, he has become internationally renowned for his talent, charisma, and numerous awards and nominations for best actor in a supporting role. He has also been nominated for best actor in a leading role in various soap operas, movies and musicals including India Catalina Award, People en Espanol Award, and TVyNovelas Awards. He is currently living in Mexico City where he has filmed soap operas and participated in musicals, similar to the Colombian ones which he previously starred in. He has been nominated for numerous awards there as well and is loved by the Mexican people.

Mr. Arenas, on a volunteer basis, will be visiting Houston to be the headliner of the Gala, a fundraising event organized by BECA to grant college scholarships to Latin American students. **The Gala will be held at the Crown Plaza Hotel – Sam Houston Ballroom (8686 Kirby Drive – Houston, TX 77054) at 7 pm.** The Gala also includes the **pageant and crowning of the 2015 Miss Independence of Colombia**, a special performance by the **Colombian Folkloric Ballet**, and live music by Sol Caribe Band.

The Gala is sponsored by Ecopetrol-America, Equipsa Enterprises, Fiesta, The Colombian Folkloric Ballet, Institute of Hispanic Culture, Macy's, Aeromexico, Lub-Line, Global Staffing Inc., Start to Finish, Axion Holdings, Exactec, My Family Doctor, Stone Jeans, and A&B Day Spa; and supported by Univision, Caracol TV International, Printing MS, Joseph Eastman Photography, Bella Flori, Crowne Plaza Hotels & Resorts, ConnexionW, Enterate Radio, Anay's Cakes, Mi Pueblito Restaurant, Martha Turner-Sotheby's, and Mayo-Hill Centre for Modeling.

BECA, a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization, was created to help Hispanic students, who grow up in the USA, to make a positive change in their lives by encouraging them to continue their education thru BECA's scholarship program. Additionally, BECA encourages those students to learn about the traditions of their own culture. Since its inception in 1995, **BECA** has granted a total of 99 scholarships for recipients to pursue degrees at numerous colleges and universities in the state of Texas.

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For twenty consecutive years, BECA has organized the Independence of Colombia Gala, its main scholarship fund raising event, which includes the renowned “Señorita Independencia de Colombia” pageant. On the cultural arena, aside from its educational program, BECA has created the “Estampa Navideña” event, which every December with the participation of approximately 35 people, including children and adults, presents Latin American traditional Christmas stories at different areas of Houston.

The Colombian Folkloric Ballet's (CFB) is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization whose mission is to create an open forum of cultural exchange and disseminate the unique Colombian culture in the Houston/Harris County areas through education, folkloric performances (dance, music, and creative expression), and presentation of cultural programs, all year-round, for audiences of all ages and backgrounds. Since its inception in 1983, the CFB has established a free professional level instruction and training center in Houston. Special emphasis is placed on training youth with positive and culturally affirming activities. In keeping with its mission to create an open forum for cultural exchange, CFB has members of different nationalities and ethnic backgrounds. The CFB promotes Colombian-American cultural exchange by spreading the Colombian culture through its educational, performing and producing activities in renowned auditoriums of major American cities.

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