



COLOMBIAN FOLKLORIC BALLET
28A Waugh Drive (77007)
P.O. 130144
Houston, Texas 77219-0144
www.cfb-usa.org
colombianfolkloricballet@gmail.com

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: **Eberto "Tiko" Amador**
tikoamador@gmail.com

Claudia Ortega-Hogue
claudiaehogue@gmail.com

MI COLOMBIA, A POWERFUL AND VIVID EXPRESSION OF COLOMBIAN DANCE AND MUSIC AT THE HOUSTON'S WORTHAM THEATER CENTER

Experience the strength and passion of a living, dancing example of pride, determination, and talent at ***MI COLOMBIA*** **extravaganza featuring** local and international renowned artists **on Saturday July 9, 2016 at 7:30 PM at the Cullen Theater of The Wortham Center - 550 Prairie, Houston TX 77002. For tickets call 832-487-7041 or visit www.houstonfirsttheaters.com**

After remarkable performances in major American cities and at the IX Latin Grammy Awards, the Colombian Folkloric Ballet is presenting ***MI COLOMBIA***, a powerful and vivid expression of the dance and music of the majestic country of Colombia under the artistic direction of Guest Artistic Director Jairo Lastre, Artistic Director Priscilla Rivas, and Angel Laza, Claudia Kistrel and Jose Roberto Cubias. This show projects the unified theme of cultural diversity prevailing in Colombia and enhances the understanding and appreciation of Colombian dance and music.

MI COLOMBIA, an artistic rendition of Gabriel Garcia Marquez's novels, transports the spectator through a journey where Colombia's five folkloric regions of rich traditions, exciting dance, evocative music, and colorful costumes are reflected. Inspired by history, traditions, legends, and facts, come and take the ride through this unforgettable landscape!

Jairo Lastre, Guest Artistic Director, one of the most prominent and talented dancers that has come from Colombia, began his dance training at age of ten at the Instituto Colombiano de Ballet Clasico (Incolballet) in Cali under the direction of Gloria Castro. In 1986 he joined the Fundacion Ballet de Cali as a Principal Dancer. With that company, Mr. Lastre danced leading roles in *Don Quixote*, *Coppélia*, *The Nutcraker*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Giselle*, and *Swank Lake*, among others. In 1990, he was a scholarship recipient with the Houston Ballet Academy while being the Artistic Director of the USA's Colombian Folkloric Ballet. On contemporary and folkloric dances, Mr. Lastre has danced as a soloist in *Carmina Burana*, *Barrio Ballet*, *Enigma*, *Serenata Criolla*, *Alfonsina*, and *Intermezzi*, to name a few.

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"Mi Colombia!!" - News release of June 18, 2016 - continuation

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The Colombian Folkloric Ballet® (CFB) (www.cfb-usa.org) is non-profit tax-exempt organization that 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. The CFB promotes Colombian-American cultural exchange by spreading the Colombian culture through its educational, performing and producing activities including, among others, the presentation of the sold-out musical "Mi Colombia" in renowned auditoriums of major American cities. The CFB is distinguished by its exceptionally talented dancers and the emphasis on acquiring and commissioning new pieces by the world's most sought-after Colombian choreographers.

The CFB was formed in 1983 by the Honorable Eberto "Tiko" Amador, then Consul of Colombia in Houston. Through education and performance of Colombian dance and music, CFB's mission is to create an open forum of cultural exchange and dispel the myths and misconceptions that surround the image of Colombia. The CFB has been operating in Houston for the past thirty three seven years. It provides training in folkloric, classical ballet, and modern dance. In addition to its regular cultural and educational programs, the CFB has granted college tuition scholarships for the professional advancement of Hispanic students of the Houston area.

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