

For Immediate Release

Leading Cuban Dance Company and GRAMMY-winning Afro-Latin Orchestra Come to Arts Commons Presents

February 13, 2024 - CALGARY – In this exclusive Canadian engagement, Calgary audiences will be enraptured by the combination of stunning contemporary dance and live music with Malpaso Dance Company and GRAMMY-winner Arturo O’Farrill and the Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra. Join Arts Commons Presents for **Malpaso Dance Company with Arturo O’Farrill & the Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra** on **Thursday, March 7, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.** in the **Jack Singer Concert Hall** at Arts Commons. Learn more at artscommons.ca/malpaso.

Leading the contemporary dance world in their native Cuba, Malpaso Dance Company has been described as “exceptional” with dancers who “deliver at the highest level” by the Los Angeles Times, and as imbued with “precision and fire” by the New York Times. Renowned around the world, there are few dance companies who match their critical acclaim. Led by the dance company’s original founders, Osnel Delgado, Fernando Saez, and Daileidys Carrazana, they have performed worldwide and are thrilled to be making their Calgary debut. [View high resolution video here.](#)

“At a very modest scale we can be ambassadors for our culture. The worst possible enemy of Cuban culture, in fact of any culture, is isolation, and hopefully in a very modest way we can open dialogue between the American and Cuban cultures,” says co-founder Fernando Saez. “I would be pretentious to consider that we’ve reached our own voice. The crystallization of our voice will take a little bit of time. Nevertheless, I think there is total commitment to serious artistic dance not compromised at all by commercial intention. Holding high artistic standards and technical standards.”

Providing the musical backdrop for the dancers in the second act of the show is multi-GRAMMY Award winning composer Arturo O’Farrill conducting the Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra. Son of the legendary Latin jazz musician Chico O’Farrill, Arturo is a frequent collaborator with Malpaso Dance Company, composing “24 Hours and a Dog” for the company in 2014. Described as “ripe, radiant, highly danceable composition” by The New York Times, “24 Hours and a Dog” encapsulates a day in the life of someone living in Havana, expressed through highly emotive physicality. O’Farrill is stylistically commended for capturing sounds from throughout Latin America leading his band to dig “deeper into the textures and rhythms of South America and the Caribbean” than ever before, as noted by JazzTimes.

The evening will also include “Lullaby for Insomnia,” a solo inspired by the legendary Cuban singer, Bola de Nieve and choreographed by Malpaso co-founder Daile Carrazana, and “Stillness in Bloom,” choreographed by Edmonton-born contemporary dance icon Aszure Barton.

“The muscularity and sensuality of their work is astounding,” says VP of Programming, Sarah Garton Stanley (SGS). “As the musical beats unfold, the dancers’ bodies fuse with the rhythms, creating an ecstatic sense of joy, heat, and a reminder of all that is beautiful in the world!”

The **BD&P World Stage** series from Arts Commons Presents is in its 23rd season of bringing the best that the world has to offer to Calgary’s spectacular Jack Singer Concert Hall at Arts Commons, giving our city the chance to experience something completely new. This season has shown **The Triplets of Belleville: 20th Anniversary Film in**

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Concert in early November, followed by the beloved holiday tradition of **The Barra MacNeils: An East Coast Christmas** and **Circa: Humans 2.0** in February. The season rounds out with **DakhaBrakha**, a multi-award winning Ukrainian folk music group and active ambassadors for Ukrainian music and culture on April 4, 2024.

Arts Commons Presents is the programming arm of Arts Commons, presenting a diverse line-up of concerts, speaker presentations, youth programming, and emerging artist showcases including the three signature series of BD&P World Stage, Classic Albums Live, and National Geographic Live. To learn about all the shows in the 2023-24 season of Arts Commons Presents, visit acpresents.ca.

What: Arts Commons Presents – Malpaso Dance Company with Arturo O’Farrill & the Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra
When: Thursday, March 7, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.
Where: Jack Singer Concert Hall at Arts Commons
Tickets: 403-294-9494 or visit artscommons.ca/malpaso

Arts Commons wishes to express our sincere appreciation to ACP Signature Series Presenting Sponsor **Burnett, Duckworth & Palmer**, supporting sponsors **ALSA Road Construction** and **SerVantage Services** as well as the **Government of Canada through Canadian Heritage**, the **Government of Alberta through the Alberta Foundation for the Arts**, and our friends at **The City of Calgary**.

For media inquiries or more information contact:

Alex Bonyun, Communications Manager
403-294-7429 abonyun@artscommons.ca

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Arts Commons Presents invites you to discover the transformative power of the Arts. As the programming arm of Arts Commons, the largest performing arts centre in Western Canada, Arts Commons Presents is one manifestation of this mandate, achieved through the programming and presenting of our in-house series: BD&P World Stage, Classic Albums Live, National Geographic Live, the TD Amplify series, as well as special presentations and our outdoor pop-up series, ArtsXpeditions. Through this work, we are able to do our part to further enrich our city, as well as create opportunities for Calgary-based artists to perform, exhibit, reach new audiences, and grow on a multitude of levels.