Laguna Dance Festival announces two exciting companies for September performances: Cuba’s Malpaso Dance Company and Alonzo King LINES Ballet

September 2015 Festival includes a robust schedule of performances, master classes, free performances

LAGUNA BEACH, Calif., March 26, 2015 – Two of the world’s hottest dance companies, Malpaso Dance Company from Havana, Cuba and San Francisco’s Alonzo King LINES Ballet, will give two performances each during the Laguna Dance Festival September 10–13. A free Art Walk presentation of Southern California choreographers and dancers on Sept. 3 and master classes Sept. 5, 6, 12 and 13 will round out the fall festival, now in its eleventh year.

Malpaso Dance Company will take the stage at the Laguna Playhouse for its West Coast premiere on Thursday, Sept. 10 and Friday, Sept. 11 at 7:30 p.m. with pre-performance talks in the theater at 6:30 p.m.

Reperitory for the Cuban company’s Laguna engagement includes Despedida/Farewell, a work by company founder Osnel Delgado, set to music by Grammy Award-winning Cuban-American composer Arturo O’Farrill, and a new commissioned work, Under Fire, choreographed by the adventurous Trey McIntyre.

Delgado founded Malpaso Dance Company in 2012 with Daileidys Carrazana and Fernando Saéz. It consists of 10 dancers, including former members of Danza Contemporanea de Cuba. The contemporary dance company collaborates with leading international choreographers and nurtures new talent. [www.malpasodance.com](http://www.malpasodance.com)

Siobhan Burke of The New York Times wrote of the company’s 2014 international debut, “...finely kneaded movement, which almost makes you want to grab it in fistfuls....It’s impossible to choose favorites among the dancers, many of whom studied at Cuba’s National Ballet School. They have the pristine technique but none of the rigidity that comes with that kind of training, as comfortable on the ground — in coiling, capoeiralike flips and tricks — as they are in the air. They’re both humble and sparkingly present — and remarkably strong all around, with the men and women doing equal lifting.”
Festival artistic director Jodie Gates commented, “With the recent détente between the United States and Cuba, we saw an opportunity to introduce this energetic young troupe to Southern California audiences. This, its first performance in the western region of North America, is an exciting opportunity for everyone involved.”

A Laguna Dance Festival favorite, Alonzo King LINES Ballet comes to town for a Saturday, Sept. 12 performance at 7:30 p.m., followed by an artists’ reception, and a Sunday matinee at 2 p.m. This is the first time the festival has presented a full evening of Alonzo King’s choreography danced by LINES Ballet. The evening will include a new collaborative work that unites King’s choreography with natural soundscape artist Bernie Krause and composer Richard Blackford, and Concerto for Two Violins, choreographed by King to Bach’s Concerto in D Minor.

Since 1982, King has guided this celebrated contemporary ballet company with choreography known for connecting audiences to a profound sense of shared humanity. King collaborates with noted international composers, musicians and visual artists to create works that draw on a diverse set of cultural traditions, imbuing classical ballet with new expressive potential. www.linesballet.org

The San Francisco Chronicle proclaimed, “Alonzo King is one of the few bona fide visionaries in the ballet world today, and we are fortunate to have him and his LINES Ballet in San Francisco.”

In addition to being a hometown favorite during its annual spring and fall performances in the Bay Area, LINES Ballet has been featured at the Venice Biennale, Monaco Dance Forum, Maison de la Danse, the Edinburgh International Festival, Festival Montpellier Danse, the Wolfsburg Festival, the Holland Dance Festival, and most recently Théâtre National de Chaillot in Paris.

Laguna Dance Festival executive director Joy Dittberner noted, “Alonzo King is one of those rare geniuses whose artistic vision is clear to anyone who experiences his company, whether they are seasoned dance fans or new to the art form.”

In addition to the four onstage performances by these two extraordinary companies, Laguna Dance Festival will present a free public dance performance at the Sept. 3 First Thursdays Art Walk, master classes for local intermediate and advanced dancers on Sept. 5 and Sept. 6 at the Laguna Beach High School dance studio, a Malpaso technique class and repertory workshop on Sept. 12, and a Sept. 13 LINES Ballet master class, also at Laguna Beach High School, 625 Park Avenue. All onstage performances will be held at the 420-seat Laguna Playhouse, 606 Laguna Canyon Road, Laguna Beach, California. Tickets will go on sale at www.lagunadancefestival.org on May 29.

Laguna Dance Festival is regarded as one of Orange County’s major annual cultural events and continues to be an important showcase for new and established dance companies and artists. Its mission is to support and promote the development of dance creation, presentation and education, and to increase public appreciation of the art form in Orange County and beyond. Phone: 949-715-5578. www.lagunadancefestival.org
Laguna Dance Festival Sept. 3–13, 2015 Schedule as of March 26, 2015

Thursday, Sept. 3 – Free dance performance during Laguna Beach First Thursdays Art Walk; details to be announced
Sept. 5 and Sept. 6 – Master classes for intermediate to advanced dancers; details to be announced
Thursday, Sept. 10 at 7:30 p.m. – Malpaso onstage performance; pre-performance talk at 6:30 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 11 at 7:30 p.m. – Malpaso onstage performance; pre-performance talk at 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, Sept. 12 – Malpaso technique class and repertory workshop
Saturday, Sept. 12 at 7:30 p.m. – Alonzo King LINES Ballet onstage performance
Saturday, Sept. 12 – Post-performance Artists’ Reception; ticketed event at Laguna Playhouse
Sept. 13 – Alonzo King LINES Ballet master class
Sunday, Sept. 13 at 2 p.m. – Alonzo King LINES Ballet onstage performance. Pre-performance talk at 1 p.m.

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