



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**SARASOTA CUBAN BALLET SCHOOL  
KICKS OFF 2017 SUMMER INTENSIVE**

The Sarasota Cuban Ballet School (SCBS) 2017 Summer Intensive, now in its fourth year, will run from June 19 to July 29. The Summer Intensive is for young people who have the talent and drive to become professional ballet dancers. Ninety participants are coming from all over the world—as near as right here in Sarasota and as far away as Japan—and were selected after a rigorous audition process (either in person or by video). The six-week intensive includes ballet, pointe, variations, pas de deux, dance conditioning, character, modern, and the history of Cuban ballet.

The program will culminate on July 29 with a 2 p.m. showcase performance of ballet classics and exciting new works. This will be followed by a 7 p.m. performance at the Sarasota Opera House that will feature young dancers as well as professionals who studied with SCBS and are now members of prestigious ballet companies. These professional dancers include special guests Francois Llorente, former soloist of Ballet Nacional de Cuba, Francisco Serrano of The Royal Ballet, and Kalle Sascha Wigle of The Royal Swedish Ballet.

This year's award-winning international faculty is composed of SCBS co-artistic directors and co-founders Ariel Serrano and Wilmian Hernandez; SCBS faculty members Delia Bellart Arcia, Tania Vergara and Emilio Borjas; SCBS resident faculty member Ramona de Sáa, world-renowned director of the Escuela Nacional Cubana de Ballet; Roberto Machado, director of the Escuela Superior de Música y Danza Monterrey; and Ana Julia Bermúdez, master teacher at the Escuela Nacional Cubana de Ballet.

“The Summer Intensive Program is just one of the ways that SCBS fulfills its mission to foster global understanding by training beginners through pre-professional dancers in the Cuban ballet style,” says Serrano. “We recruit young talent both internationally and locally for our programs and excited to share their talent with our community.”

Tickets are on sales now at the Sarasota Opera House and are \$25 for the 2 p.m. Showcase and \$35, \$50 and \$65 for the 7 p.m. On Stage performance.

## **IF YOU GO**

**The Sarasota Cuban Ballet School Summer Intensive Showcase—2 p.m.**

**The Sarasota Cuban Ballet School On Stage Performance—7 p.m.**

**Saturday, July 29**

**Sarasota Opera House, 61 N. Pineapple Ave, Sarasota**

## **TICKETS/BOX OFFICE INFO:**

**For tickets, call 941.328.1300 OR [tickets.sarasotaopera.org](http://tickets.sarasotaopera.org)**

May/June Box Office Hours: Monday–Friday 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

July Box Office Hours: Monday–Thursday 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Ask about the group sales discount for 10 or more.

## **About The Sarasota Cuban Ballet School**

SCBS was founded in 2012 by the Cuban-born husband and wife team of Ariel Serrano and Wilmian Hernandez. Born in Cuba, they trained at the elite National Ballet School of Cuba and performed internationally. In 1993, they moved to Sarasota to join the Sarasota Ballet. Co-Artistic Directors of SCBS, they teach classes at all levels for students from age three to adults, but the heart of the School's program is a rigorous training course to prepare talented, serious young dancers for professional careers. Students of SCBS have gone on to perform with Dance Theater of Harlem, Milwaukee Ballet, Cincinnati Ballet, Tulsa Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, Ballet West, Boston Ballet, Ballet Manila, Ballet Municipal de Lima and The Royal Ballet.

## **About the Cuban Style**

SCBS is the only school in the United States specializing in the Cuban training style, which is renowned for its athleticism, passion and grace. The Cuban Style is an authentic movement of style of classical ballet with influences from the major schools of ballet—French, Italian and Russian. It emphasizes dancing with the entire body and promoting harmonious movement among arms, legs and torso. It is a very clean and precise, but not stiff. It has a romantic feel, with attentive partnering, and is changing the face of modern ballet with superb technique and impeccable footwork. This award-winning School provides world-class ballet instruction in the tradition of the Cuban method.

### ***The Sarasota Cuban Ballet School is sponsored in part by:***

*abc7, Community Foundation of Sarasota County, Dr. Suzanne Kesten Mentoring Foundation, Saks Fifth Avenue, William G. and Marie Selby Foundation, Sarasota Magazine, Sarasota County TDT and WUSF Public Media*

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