



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Sarasota, FL (July 5, 2017)

Media Contact:

Barb Bullock
info.sarasotacubanballet@gmail.com
941.365.8400

**SARASOTA CUBAN BALLET SCHOOL
PRESENTS 2017 ON STAGE PERFORMANCE**

The Sarasota Cuban Ballet School (SCBS) will present its 2017 On Stage performance on July 29 at 7 p.m. at the Sarasota Opera House and 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, Sarasota's own Francisco Serrano of The Royal Ballet, and Kalle Sascha Wigle of The Royal Swedish Ballet. Additionally, they will offer a 2 p.m. Summer Intensive showcase performance of ballet classics and exciting new works.

These two performances are the culmination of the SCBS 2017 Summer Intensive, now in its fourth year, which began June 19 and will run through July 29. The Summer Intensive is for young people who have the talent and drive to become professional ballet dancers. Ninety-five dancers came from four countries and 14 different states, as near as Sarasota and as far away as Japan. They 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.

This year's award-winning international faculty is composed of SCBS co-artistic directors and co-founders Ariel Serrano and Wilman 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.

"SCBS's On Stage performance features our pre-professional dancers performing with and alongside international ballet stars to create a magnificent event at the beautiful Sarasota Opera House," says Serrano. "The caliber of dancers that will be in Sarasota for one night only makes this an experience not to be missed."

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

Saturday, July 29 - Sarasota Opera House, 61 N. Pineapple Ave., Sarasota

On Stage Performance—7 p.m.

Summer Intensive Showcase—2 p.m.

TICKETS/BOX OFFICE INFO:

For tickets, call 941.328.1300 OR tickets.sarasotaopera.org

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 Wilman 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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