

AUDITORIUM THEATRE

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The Auditorium Theatre Proudly Presents
Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater
One night only, October 1 at 7:30 p.m.

**Featuring performances and a U.S. premiere
by international Flamenco superstar **La Lupi****

September 1, 2022 (CHICAGO) – The Auditorium Theatre (50 E. Ida B. Wells Drive) kicks off the 2022-23 season of its popular *Chicago Dance* series with **Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater**, for one performance only, Saturday October 1 at 7:30 p.m. Entitled ***Flamenco Passion***, and honoring Hispanic Heritage Month, the vibrant program of Spanish dance will feature global flamenco superstar **La Lupi** (Susana Lupiáñez Pinto) joining the Ensemble Español company to perform her *Pasos Largos/ Long Steps*, in the Caña-style set to a score performed by her husband, renowned guitarist/composer **Curro de Maria**, in addition to the U.S. premiere by La Lupi, along with classic works from the company's repertoire. Opening for Ensemble Español will be **Para.Mar**, a Chicago-based contemporary ballet company formed during the pandemic lockdown. Tickets for this program, which start at \$25 (discounts available for students and groups), are on sale now at auditoriumtheatre.org.

"We are excited to welcome back Ensemble Español to our stage," says Auditorium Theatre CEO **Rich Regan**. "It is important to spotlight a diverse array of Chicago's finest dance companies through our Chicago Dance series, particularly during 2022, The Year of Chicago Dance."

"La Lupi has been a major figure in the Spanish and international flamenco community for decades," added **Jorge Perez**, Ensemble Español Executive & Associate Artistic Director. "We are honored to bring her artistry and passion for the art form to our audiences at the Auditorium Theatre."

Lively musical accompaniment will be provided by an on-stage sextet of musicians and vocalists including **Curro de Maria** (Flamenco guitarist), **Paco Fonta** (Flamenco singer and guitarist), **Jose Moreno** (Flamenco singer, percussionist, dancer and guitarist), **David Chiriboga** (Flamenco guitarist), **Diego "El Negro" Alvarez** (percussionist) and **Luis Galvez** (tenor).

The Ensemble Español dance program will feature both new and classic repertoire, for the full company and its soloists, including *El Casorio/The Wedding* (2022, Irma Suarez Ruiz), *La Resonancia del Alma/Resonance of the Soul* (June 2022, Jose Moreno), *Danza del Fuego/Dance of Fire* (1979, Dame Libby Komaiko), *Alma De Aragon* (1990, Paco Alonso), *Dualia* (2018, Carlos Rodriguez), *Pasos Largos / Long Steps* (2022, La Lupi), *Fin de Fiesta* (2022, La Lupi and Company).

About Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater

The Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater is the premier Spanish dance company and center in the United States. The ensemble is in-residence at Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago. The Ensemble Español preserves, presents, and promotes the four styles of Spanish dance: Flamenco, folkloric, escuela bolera and classical. Founded in 1975 by Dame Libby Komaiko, and incorporated in 1976, the organization is now under the dynamic leadership of **Irma Suarez Ruiz**, artistic director and **Jorge Pérez**, executive director. The company is comprised of dancers, singers, guest artists, and musicians representing a mosaic of cultures from around the world. The organization is praised by educators, arts professionals, business and government leaders, as well as arts and cultural media for its artistic excellence, cultural integrity, and of course, its commitment to arts and higher education opportunities for all.

The Ensemble appears in a broad range of television, opera, Emmy winning documentaries, opera, film, and symphonic formats, including with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. The Ensemble has appeared in many major theaters and universities in Chicago and Illinois, including the landmark Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University, North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, Harris Theater, and Symphony Center to name a few. The Ensemble has appeared throughout the United States, the Midwest, Puerto Rico, Hawaii & Canada, and on four continents including the countries of Mexico, Costa Rica, Poland, Australia, China, and Spain.

About The Auditorium Theatre

The Auditorium Theatre, located at 50 E. Ida B. Wells Drive at Roosevelt University in Chicago, is an Illinois not-for-profit organization committed to presenting the finest in international, cultural, community, and educational programming to all of Chicago and beyond as The Theatre for the People. The organization also is committed to the continued restoration and preservation of this National Historic Landmark that originally opened in 1889.

This Auditorium Theatre's 2022-23 performance season features a dynamic mix of acclaimed global dance companies (**Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo**, **Step Afrika!**, **Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan**, **American Ballet Theatre**, and the much anticipated annual engagement by the **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater**) while closer to home, beloved Chicago dance companies also take the stage (besides Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater, also **Deeply Rooted Dance Theater**, **South Chicago Dance Theatre**, and an evening with **Trinity Irish Dance Company**, **M.A.D.D. Rhythms**, and special guest, New York-based **Dorrance Dance**). In addition, the critically acclaimed **National Geographic Live** speaker series, offering first-hand accounts and expert voices on cultural and environmental issues, returns with three offerings and a new lower ticket price. And rounding out the season will be two holiday music concert specials in December: the popular **Too Hot to Handel: The Jazz-Gospel Messiah** and **Celtic Woman**.

For more information on the Auditorium Theatre and a complete listing of events at the Auditorium Theatre, please visit AuditoriumTheatre.org.

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