

JUNE 9, 2023

The Music Center Welcomes Dutch National Ballet's Debut at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion With the U.S. Premiere of *Frida* on July 14-16, 2023

Part of Dutch National Ballet's Residency, 'The Music Center's Dance in Focus Film Festival: REFLECTIONS' Presented by The Music Center in Association with Dance Camera West to Premiere at Jerry Moss Plaza Beginning July 12

LOS ANGELES (June 9, 2023) - Dutch National Ballet, the largest dance company in the Netherlands, concludes the 20th dance season of *Glorya Kaufman Presents Dance at The Music Center* with the U.S. premiere of *Frida*, from July 14-16, 2023. An homage to famed Mexican artist Frida Kahlo, the work's choreographer Annabelle Lopez Ochoa and composer Peter Salem weave Kahlo's complex and colorful life into a rich work that exalts the global icon as one of the most intriguing artists of the 20th century. Ochoa delves deep into the loneliness that haunted Kahlo all her life, her relationship with husband Diego Rivera, her bisexuality and the way she crafted her own image.

Dutch National Ballet's residency includes **The Music Center's Dance in Focus Film Festival: REFLECTIONS**, presented by **The Music Center** in association with **Dance Camera West**; a trio of master classes for high school and college dancers taught by Ochoa herself on July 5-7, 2023; and a pre-show talk on Jerry Moss Plaza at The Music Center with Dutch National Ballet's Artistic Director Ted Brandsen prior to the Sunday matinee performance.

"The 20th season of *Glorya Kaufman Presents Dance at The Music Center* has been nothing short of exhilarating, and *Frida* is the consummate finale," said Rachel S. Moore, president and CEO of The Music Center. "We are thrilled to partner with Dutch National Ballet for the U.S. premiere of this highly anticipated work that will resonate among Frida Kahlo enthusiasts as well as those interested in learning more about her life and focus. It will be a visual feast to watch Frida Kahlo's seminal artistry and her relentless trials and tribulations playing out quite dramatically on stage."

Dutch National Ballet has developed, produced and presented ballet over the past 60 years at the highest international level, aiming to reach a wider public and bring today's audiences into contact with the beauty and passion of the dance art form. With a unique and diverse repertoire, nearly 80 dancers from all over the world and a tradition of innovation, the company plays a leading role in Dutch cultural life and beyond. The riveting yet tragic life story of Frida Kahlo inspired choreographer Annabelle Lopez Ochoa and composer Peter Salem to create *Frida* from the ground up. One of the most intriguing artists of the 20th century, Kahlo refused to bow to misfortune, zealously fought taboos, championed women's rights and painted self-portraits that became famous the world over. In creating this full-length choreography, Ochoa's aim was to flesh out the "expressive surrealism that dance--by analogy to Kahlo's paintings--can embody." A live orchestra, comprised of local musicians and conducted by Matthew Rowe, will provide the music to *Frida*.

To engage and inspire students and educators through dance and movement, The Music Center will offer three master classes for up to 20 students to be taught by Ochoa. She will teach students from **Lula Washington Dance Theatre** on Wednesday, July 5; college-level dancers on Thursday, July 6; and students from **Straight Up Abilities** on Friday, July 7.

Inspired by the iconic work of Frida Kahlo and choreographer Ochoa's biographical ballet for Dutch National Ballet, The Music Center, in association with Dance Camera West, launched *The Music Center's Dance in Focus Film Festival: REFLECTIONS*. The festival, which included an open call for submissions in January 2023, invited dance aficionados and filmmakers in Southern California to submit their original dance or choreography films (with a maximum length of 12 minutes) that explored autobiography and self-portraiture. To support the filmmakers, Dance Camera West provided three free workshops at The Music Center's Dorothy Chandler Pavilion that delved into the art of dance filmmaking.

Nearly 300 dance films were submitted in three categories by filmmakers: students under 18 years of age; students 18 years and older; and professional filmmakers. Films were judged by an esteemed panel of industry professionals, among them:

- **Javier De Frutos**, director, choreographer and designer whose awards include the Olivier Award for Best Theatre Choreography for *Cabaret* and The Evening Standard Award for *The Most Incredible Thing* in collaboration with the Pet Shop Boys;
- **Kelly Hargraves**, executive director and artistic director of Dance Camera West;
- **DaEun Jung**, L.A.-based dancer/choreographer and lecturer at the University of California, Riverside, whose accolades include receiving a 2023 New Music Creator Fund grant and being named a finalist of the 2022-2023 New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA) National Dance Project Production Grant;
- **Dawn Stoppiello**, intermedia artist and associate professor of practice, with a focus on dance and new media, at the USC Gloria Kaufman School of Dance; and
- **Price Suddarth**, soloist dancer with Pacific Northwest Ballet.

The Music Center will announce the winning films on **Friday, June 23**, and will screen them for free to the public starting on **Wednesday, July 12**, on the LED screens at Jerry Moss Plaza and on The Music Center's website. Screenings will continue throughout Dutch National Ballet's Los Angeles residency at The Music Center. Performance ticketholders can also view the winning films in Stern Grand Hall located inside The Music Center's Dorothy Chandler Pavilion.

The Music Center thanks Sony Pictures Entertainment for its support of *The Music Center's Dance in Focus Film Festival: REFLECTIONS*.

Tickets for Dutch National Ballet's performances at The Music Center are available for purchase online at musiccenter.org/dnb or calling **(213) 972-0711**. The Music Center's Ticket Buyer Assurance Program protects all advance ticket purchases for dance presentations through 2023. The Music Center remains committed to the highest standards of safety, sanitation and security to minimize risk for guests, artists and employees. Visit musiccenter.org/safety for information about The Music Center's continued safety and security measures.

Frida is supported by the Dutch Culture USA program of the Consulate General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in New York.

CALENDAR LISTING FOR DANCE PERFORMANCES

Dutch National Ballet

Frida

The Music Center's Dorothy Chandler Pavilion

Friday, July 14, 2023, at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, July 15, 2023, at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, July 16, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.

Debut performance at The Music Center

Live locally-based orchestra conducted by Matthew Rowe

Concept, Libretto and Choreography: Annabelle Lopez Ochoa

Dramaturgy and Libretto: Nancy Meckler

Music: Peter Salem

Set and Costume Design: Dieuweke van Reij

Lighting Design: Michael Mazzola

Assistant to the Choreographer: Luis Torres

Frida, by choreographer Annabelle Lopez Ochoa with music by composer Peter Salem, was inspired by the life story of Mexican painter Frida Kahlo. One of the most intriguing artists of the 20th century, Kahlo refused to bow to misfortune, zealously fought taboos, championed women's rights and painted self-portraits that became famous the world over. In creating this full-length choreography, Ochoa's aim was to flesh out the "expressive surrealism that dance--by analogy to Kahlo's paintings--can embody," delving even deeper into the loneliness that haunted Kahlo all her life, her relationship with husband Diego Rivera, her bisexuality and the way she crafted her own image.

As the largest dance company of the Netherlands, Dutch National Ballet develops and has produced and presented ballet over the past 60 years at the highest international level, aiming to reach a wider public and to bring today's audiences into contact with the beauty and passion of the dance art form. With a unique and diverse repertoire of nearly 80 dancers from all over the world and a tradition of innovation, the company plays a leading role in Dutch cultural life and beyond.

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CALENDAR LISTING FOR THE MUSIC CENTER'S DANCE IN FOCUS FILM FESTIVAL: REFLECTIONS

WHAT:

The Music Center's Dance in Focus Film Festival: REFLECTIONS, in association with Dance Camera West, will be screened for free to the public on Jerry Moss Plaza, on The Music Center's website and to ballet performance ticketholders inside Dorothy Chandler Pavilion's Stern Grand Hall on select dates and times.

WHEN:

Wednesday, July 12, 2023, 7:00 p.m. - Midnight (Jerry Moss Plaza)

Thursday, July 13, 2023, 5:00 p.m. - Midnight (Jerry Moss Plaza)

Friday, July 14, 2023, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. (Jerry Moss Plaza)

Friday, July 14, 2023, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. (Dorothy Chandler Pavilion's Stern Grand Hall)

Saturday, July 15, 2023, 5:00 p.m. - Midnight (Jerry Moss Plaza)

Saturday, July 15, 2023, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. (Dorothy Chandler Pavilion's Stern Grand Hall)

Sunday, July 16, 2023, 2:00 - 6:00 p.m. (Jerry Moss Plaza)

Sunday, July 16, 2023, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m. (Dorothy Chandler Pavilion's Stern Grand Hall)

WHERE:

Jerry Moss Plaza at The Music Center

135 North Grand Avenue
Los Angeles 90012

The Music Center's Dorothy Chandler Pavilion

Stern Grand Hall

135 North Grand Avenue
Los Angeles 90012

MORE INFO:

musiccenter.org/danceinfocus and follow [@musiccenterla](https://twitter.com/musiccenterla) on social media

About Glorja Kaufman Presents Dance at The Music Center

Glorja Kaufman Presents Dance at The Music Center, a TMC Arts program, is one of the leading presenters of dance on the West Coast. The celebrated series offers significant works by prestigious ballet and contemporary dance artists from around the world. Now entering its 21st year, *Dance at The Music Center* is a powerful force, supporting new works and artists-in-residence projects by today's most influential companies and choreographers. Performances are complemented by special experiences for both ticket buyers and the public with opportunities to learn more about the choreography and the themes explored, including panels, master classes, dance film festivals, interactive experiences and more. The 21st season of *Glorja Kaufman Presents Dance at The Music Center* is generously supported by Glorja Kaufman Foundation, Center Dance Arts, Dorothy B. Chandler Program Fund and Elisabeth Katte Harris.

About Center Dance Arts

Center Dance Arts is a dynamic community of patrons with a passion for dance. Center Dance Arts members bring dance to life in Los Angeles by promoting The Music Center's world-class dance performances, extensive educational outreach and free and low-cost community experiences so all may experience the transformative power of dance. For

more information, visit musiccenter.org/cda.

About The Music Center

The Music Center convenes artists, communities and ideas with the goal of deepening the cultural lives of every resident in Los Angeles County. The \$70 million non-profit performing arts organization has two divisions: TMC Arts and TMC Ops. TMC Arts, The Music Center's programming engine, provides year-round programming inside The Music Center's four theatres, on Jerry Moss Plaza, outside at Gloria Molina Grand Park--a 12-acre adjacent green space--in schools and other locations all over Los Angeles County and on a digital platform called *The Music Center Offstage*. TMC Arts presents world-class dance with *Glorya Kaufman Presents Dance at The Music Center*, free and low-cost public concerts and events, as well as live and digital K-12 arts education programs, workshops, performances, interactive experiences and special events. TMC Ops manages the theatres, the Plaza and Gloria Molina Grand Park, which comprise \$2 billion in county assets, on behalf of the County of Los Angeles. The Music Center is also home to four renowned resident companies--Center Theatre Group, Los Angeles Master Chorale, LA Opera and LA Phil. For more information, visit musiccenter.org. Follow The Music Center on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter @MusicCenterLA.

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