



## Edwin Aparicio's *Selected Works* at Gala Hispanic Theatre/Tivoli

July 9, 2007 Here's a brief interview with Edwin Aparicio to give you some insight on what to expect with his upcoming show this Saturday and Sunday July 14th and 15th, 2007.

**Miguelito:** With "Selected Works" this is the first time you don't have a theme or creative title. Or am I wrong? What's the concept behind this production?

**Edwin:** "Selected Works" is a compilation of some of the strongest pieces from my repertoire. In this performance, I am taking a look back at my productions *Bailes Inéditos* (2003), *Encuentros* (2004), *Camino / al flamenco* (2005), *Íntimo* (2005) and *Entresueño* (2006) and let the audience and myself re-live some of the best moments. My goal however is not to make the pieces identical to the original. I've let them evolve as I too have evolved.

**M:** I was at the [rehearsal last Sunday](#) and saw some new faces (new for an Edwin Aparicio production). Tell me about the cast members and what motivated you to select them.

**E:** I am very happy and proud that Washington DC has some of the best flamenco talent in the US. There are for sure more good artists in this city than I can fit on a stage, so I had to choose. In addition to their ability to simply learn the steps, I chose dancers who really want to learn and who are willing to challenge themselves.

In addition to some DC crowd, I've invited Ricky Santiago and Rebecca Thomas from New York City to join us. Both of them are great dancers, wonderful people and share my passion and commitment to flamenco and to excelling in this art form. It's wonderful to see such dedication!

**M:** You've been choreographing and producing for a couple of years now. In what ways do you think you've matured as an artist? What are your strengths? What are your areas you feel need a some extra effort?

**E:** Over the years, I've learned to cherish inspiration and to allow myself to get inspired and to channel it through flamenco. Dance for me has always been a way to express my inner world and the world around me as I see it, but it was not until later in my career that it became a conscious process. I get inspired by other art, be it music, fine or performance art. I've been enriching my palette as an artist by going to dozens of shows and exhibits and learning from other artists over the last few years. And it's not only art that inspires me; it is really everything around me - events, people, objects, feelings...

Contrary to many people's belief, flamenco is not about uncontrolled emotion or raw expression. It's about letting yourself feel intense emotions and then having the skill and the aesthetics to express it. "Go as wild as you can" simply does not work for me. There has to be substance, technique and control - that's what makes it beautiful, that's what makes it art.

What interests me a lot and what I need and would like to explore more are the boundaries of flamenco. It is wonderful to see flamenco evolve, yet there seems to be a line -- that is not always clear --between something being or NOT being flamenco. I do not believe in modernizing for the sake of modernizing so my goal is to modernize when it makes sense and without being untrue to flamenco. It's not an easy path and there's a lot to learn...

**M:** Any interesting stories about the rehearsals that might shed some light on group's and your creative process?

**E:** I am thrilled and honored by the dedication among the artists in this production. It's been a bit of a boot-camp for everyone and I am so glad to see them excel and enjoy the process.

Rebecca and Ricky have been coming to DC from New York City every weekend for the past couple of months to rehearse. Wow! And the DC folks rehearse almost every day! Cecilia, Dana, Carmel and Yolit have small kids, Tamara has her PhD thesis, everyone in the group has their life that is busy and at times complicated. Yet, they are all here, working very hard and having fun through learning together and through becoming really good friends.

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From the press release:

**Two heart-stopping evenings of must-see flamenco**

In Edwin Aparicio: Selected Works, flamenco performer and choreographer Edwin Aparicio has curated choreographies from his acclaimed repertoire alongside new evolutionary material. Among the highlights of this production are the expanded corps de ballet, featuring some of DC's most dynamic talent, original musical compositions and arrangements of traditional flamenco music, and a solid foundation of the authentic flamenco song.

The rising popularity of flamenco and a concentration of gifted artists has made Washington DC one of the epicenters of the Andalusian art form in the United States. Edwin Aparicio, described by critics as being "the most amazing dancer seen in years," having "hellfire footwork" and choreographies with "beautiful, evocative imagery," is at the forefront of the U.S. flamenco movement. His five original productions (Bailes Inéditos, Encuentros, Intimo, Camino/al flamenco and Entresueño) presented in a constellation of US cities earned accolades from flamenco connoisseurs as well as from

the mainstream audience for their quality and passion. In the Edwin Aparicio: Selected Works, Aparicio revisits his best original choreographies as he continues to distill the essence of flamenco, stripping away the meaningless trappings and allowing the audience to experience the art in its pure essence.

The production highlights the individual and collective mastery of the fifteen flamenco performers ranging from highly acclaimed singer Jesús Montoya to the rising stars of flamenco in the US, "La Genoveva" and the New York City-based Rebecca Thomas. Original musical arrangements and compositions by the Afghani-born guitarist and percussionist Behzad Habibzai add a fresh layer of art to the choreographic canvas of Edwin Aparicio's work, which is steeped in years of mastery and talent.

One of the pieces in the production is "Martinete," originally created for Aparicio's Camino/al flamenco, and inspired by the choreographer's personal quest for identity sparked by the Civil War in his native El Salvador and the immigration which followed. "Alegrias" from Encuentros is the artist's signature work, incorporating eleven years of Aparicio's experience as a performer, teacher, and choreographer. "I am particularly excited about this presentation of "Alegrias," as I take it to a new level, pushing the limits of my movement and inspiration, and amplifying it through the expanded corps de ballet."

Set in Washington DC's historic Tivoli building, which has been revitalized with the artistic spirit of the GALA Hispanic Theater, Edwin Aparicio: Selected Works is guaranteed to inspire and wow the audience. With only two presentations (Saturday, July 14, and Sunday, July 15, 2007), this is a must-see performance.

**WHO:**

Edwin Aparicio: Selected Works featuring Edwin Aparicio and Guest Artists

**WHAT:** Two performances in Washington, D.C.'s Gala Hispanic Theater

**WHEN/WHERE:** July 14, 2007, 8:00pm

July 15, 2007, 4:00pm

Gala Hispanic Theatre/Tivoli

3333 14th Street NW, Washington DC 20010 ([Map/Directions](#))

**TICKETS** [www.boxofficetickets.com](http://www.boxofficetickets.com) or call 1-800-494-TIXS (8497)

\$35 General Admission