



## GUEST ARTIST'S BIOGRAPHIES

**Lead Female Dancer: Jeanne d' Arc Simone Casas Panouze (1984)** was born in Aibonito, Puerto Rico. At three years old, she began studying ballet, Spanish dance and later she studied flamenco including contemporary dance. Jeanne d'Arc holds a bachelor's degree in Individualized Studies from the Humanities Department of the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus and is a certified Ashtanga Vinyasa Yoga teacher. In 2011 she completed a Master in Fine Arts specialized in choreography and performance at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, where she also taught Flamenco and Modern dance. Since 2012 she became part of the flamenco dance company Soledad Barrio & Noche Flamenca based in New York and Madrid. Jeanne d'Arc has a passion for performing and teaching, where thru her classes she channels and undertakes all of her master skills. During the fall of 2014, she developed and taught; *Flamenco: Theory and Practice* for the Department of Humanities at the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus, becoming the first Flamenco theory and practice course ever taught on the island. Most recently, she earned an artistic residency from the Performing Arts Center Luis A. Ferré in San Juan, Puerto Rico. During the residence, she created and presented an adaptation of the play The House of Bernarda Alba written by Federico García Lorca called Hij@s de la Bernarda, which is an experimental dance-theatre flamenco and contemporary dance work directed by Rosa Luisa Márquez. Hij@s de la Bernarda was presented in October 2017 at the "Festival Iberoamericano de Teatro" in Cádiz, Spain. In December 2017 it was exhibited at Pregones Theatre in Bronx, New York. Finally in May 2018, the company got invited to the festival "Mayo Teatral" in La Habana, Cuba and to the 33rd "Festival Internacional de Teatro Hispanoamericano" in Miami Florida in July 2018. Most recent Jeanne finished touring around the island playing the main role in La Zapatera Prodigiosa written by Federico García Lorca, also adapted and directed by Rosa Luisa Márquez.

**Lead Male Dancer: Manuel Gutierrez Cabello** was born in Montpellier, France after his parents had migrated to South of France from Cordoba, Spain. From a young age he had shown a talent for dance, winning his first flamenco award at only 8 years old. He began to develop his unique style under the direction of Lita Peiro, José Galván and later with Joaquin Grilo and Javier Latorre.

By age twenty, Gutierrez began producing works and dancing across Europe with legendary artists including Duquende, Chicuelo, Juan Carmona and Chispa Negra. He also began to collaborate with top French choreographers Redha, Marjorie Ascione, and Gerome Zerbie. In 2008, Manuel was invited to choreograph the production "Flamenco Flamen'ka" which sold out the Lyric Theatre in London and ran for five years in Great Britain and France. Gutierrez's fame as a choreographer and producer was growing. The Telegraph in London called his work "Fiery." Danse Magazine nicknamed him, "The Young Flamenco Prince." Figarro Newspaper raved "The dance is strong, voluptuous, and spectacular... a profound type of Flamenco and incredibly explosive."

Manuel was invited to teach at the top studios in Europe including L'Opéra de Paris. During this period, he worked on television and stage productions as choreographer/dancer, such as "Romancero Gitano," "El Emigrante" and many others. Since 2011, Manuel has contributed his time as Artistic Director for Global Gift Foundation for the charitable initiative "The Global Gift Gala" which works alongside actress, producer and philanthropist Eva Longoria as Honorary Chair in benefit of Eva Longoria Foundation, Ricky Martin Foundation, Global Gift Foundation and many more. Manuel continues to work alongside Longoria and has produced charitable events in Los Angeles, London, Paris, Cannes, Mexico and Dubai.

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Manuel concurrently has continued to dance and choreograph around the world with artists like Louis Winsberg, Souad Massi and San Francisco-based dance company "Caminos Flamencos." In 2012, he helped create the production "Juncal Street" with Fanny Ara and his choreography was nominated for an Isadora Duncan Dance Award. Currently residing in Los Angeles, Manuel is establishing himself as a very prolific performer and choreographer throughout the U.S., having created his first U.S production, "KOMPAZ", performing with the LA Opera and continuing his collaborations with musicians of different genres in his quest to define himself as an explorer of dance in general and flamenco in particular.

**Dancer/Percussionist: José Moreno** was born into a family of famous flamenco artists Estrella Morena (dancer) and Pepe de Málaga (singer), Jose began his flamenco career during his childhood years. His debut was at the famous Tablao flamenco "Costa Vasca". Jose continued his studies with the Great Manolete, Farruquito, and Andres Marin and Cajon Percussion with Manuel Soler. Jose has been invited to perform in various companies around the world, and with distinguished artists such as: The Great Manolete, Joaquin Ruiz, Pastora Galvan, Jose Cortes "Pansequito", Jose de Luna, Jose Luis Rodriguez, Roberto Castellon, Pedro Cortes, Jose Valle "Chuscales", Basilio Garcia, Paco Heredia, Elena Andujar, Carmen Ledesma, Jesus Montoya, Zorongo Flamenco Dance, La Tania, Miguel Vargas, Nelida Tirado, Antonio Hidalgo, Curro Cueto, Gonzalo Grau, Edwin Aparicio, Amparo Heredia, Antonio Granjero, Omayra Amaya and many other outstanding performers.

In 2001, Jose choreographed and performed a collaborative work with his mother Estrella Morena, and with renowned flamenco singer Carmen Linares with the New World Symphony Orchestra at Lincoln Theater. In 2004 choreographed works and performed with the Boston Flamenco Ballet, in 2007, Jose performed with the internationally known Isabel Pantoja, and with David Bisbal in "Premios lo Nuestro". In 2010 performed in the 7th annual Panama Jazz Festival, also that same year at the prestigious "Carnegie Hall" in New York City, in 2013 in "Zorro" The Musical at the Alliance Theatre and most recently in the 2014-2015 season of "Carmen" at The Metropolitan Opera in New York City and the 2015-2016 season of "Carmen" at The Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. for the Washington National Opera.

**Dancer: Edwin Aparicio** is considered to be one of the most sought-after flamenco performers, teachers and choreographers in the United States. He has been described by critics as "the most amazing dancer seen in years," "a technical powerhouse dancing with blistering conviction," having "hellfire footwork" and choreographies with "beautiful, evocative imagery." He is a recipient of the Cross of the Order of Civil Merit, granted by the King Felipe VI of Spain.

Trained by the world renowned flamenco artists Tomás de Madrid and "La Tati", Mr. Aparicio made his debut at the legendary Casa Patas in Madrid in 2001 and in 2005 performed as a soloist and a company member with "Jóvenes Flamenco" at the Centro Cultural de San Blas in Madrid. Mr. Aparicio performed with The Washington National Opera at The Kennedy Center in El Gato Montés (1997) and in Don Giovanni (2003), under the direction of Plácido Domingo, and in Carmen (2015).

Mr. Aparicio has performed as a soloist throughout the United States with ensembles such as the "José Greco Spanish Dance Company" and Reynaldo Rincón's "Romería Flamenca". He has shared the stage with such internationally celebrated artists as Chuscales, Silverio Heredia, Roberto Castellón, Pedro Cortés, "La Truco", Elena Andújar, Carmela Greco, Pastora Galván and José Luis Rodríguez.

Based in Washington DC, Mr. Aparicio has created a loyal following as an instructor, performer, director and choreographer in the nation's capital. He also frequently performs and imparts master

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classes in other US cities, such as Chicago, where he was invited to participate in several special programs organized by the Flamenco Arts Center and the Cervantes Institute.

In 2005 Mr. Aparicio was the choreographer for the GALA Hispanic Theatre's highly praised production of Lorca's *Yerma*, directed by the acclaimed Hugo Medrano. Since then GALA Theatre has become Mr. Aparicio's base for presenting his eclectic company and for premiering his newest works. He is also the resident coordinator and a featured performer of the Theatre's annual Fuego Flamenco Festival.

Mr. Aparicio is the artistic director and choreographer of the productions *Flamenco Men*, *Flamenco/Flamenca*, *Camino / al flamenco*, and *Encuentros*, co-director and choreographer of *Bailes Inéditos*, director and choreographer of the nationally acclaimed productions *Íntimo with Carmela Greco*, which was presented in Washington DC, Philadelphia, Chicago, Pittsburgh, Portland OR, and at the Kean University in New Jersey, and *Entresueño*, which marked Mr. Aparicio's New York City debut as a company director.

Since 2008 Mr. Aparicio is a member of the faculty at the Washington School of Ballet. In May 2013 he performed as a guest artist in The Washington Ballet's production of *Hemingway: The Sun Also Rises* at the Kennedy Center in Washington DC.

2015 marked Mr. Aparicio's international debut as a director, when he presented his work *Íntimo* at the Teatro Nacional Rubén Darío in Managua, Nicaragua.

**Composer/Guitarist: Jonathan "Juanito" Pascual** is an internationally recognized guitarist and "flamenco phenom" (*The Boston Globe*). His sound is a truly organic blend of masterful traditional and contemporary flamenco with influences ranging from Jimi Hendrix and the Grateful Dead to Miles Davis and J.S. Bach. Juanito brings together global audiences through his mesmerizing virtuosity, original composition style, dedication to music as a global communicator, and passion for collaboration. Energized by the desire to share the beauty and soul-stirring power of flamenco, with its ancient roots, yet vibrant and evolving tradition, Juanito's performances, recordings, and workshops reverberate with infectious charisma. Recent highlights include a performance as part of 2017's Django A Gogo Festival, an international tour with acclaimed Flamenco icon Jorge Pardo, and performances for film scores in his new home of Los Angeles. Receiving praise for the *Juanito Pascual New Flamenco Trio* album (2014), *All About Jazz* noted "Pascual manages to uphold and extend the traditions of flamenco music, creating something distinctive in the process," a sentiment cherished by Pascual, a dedicated 21st-century musician.

Born in Minneapolis, MN in 1973, Juanito Pascual is recognized in both Spain and the United States as a unique and creative flamenco and jazz performer. Juanito has performed in many of the internationally best-known fine arts centers, clubs, and festivals including Lincoln Center, the 92nd St. Y, Blue Note Jazz Club, DeBartolo Performing Arts Center at Notre Dame University, Philadelphia's Kimmel Center, Panama Jazz Festival, and Madrid's Casa Patas. He has been featured in special events including concerts hosted by Jane Goodall in Panama, as a guest musician on Garrison Keillor's *Prairie Home Companion* cruise in the Mediterranean, and as a guest on National Public Radio's "The World" program among other television and radio programs. In 2009, Juanito made his on-screen debut alongside Steve Martin and Andy Garcia in the 2009 film *Pink Panther 2*. He continued his film score work on a number of projects, including the 2016 Netflix biopic based on the life of Pope Francis, *Call Me Francis*.

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Juanito's 2013 full-length album, *Juanito Pascual New Flamenco Trio*, is his third album and features bassist Brad Barrett and Grammy-nominated percussionist Tupac Mantilla. The Juanito Pascual New Flamenco Trio creates a sound that seamlessly merges flamenco with elements of jazz, world, rock, pop, and soul. Recorded and mixed by multi-Grammy-winning engineer Rob Griffin, the album featured diverse songs that allowed Juanito to express "a sound that has been percolating in me, in many ways since I was a teenager, and now all of the necessary pieces have finally come together in a way that is even better than I imagined."

A talented educator, Juanito regularly hosts workshops in various cities in the United States, the Middle East, Europe, and Central America. Juanito created and directed the annual summer Flamenco Institute at the New England Conservatory in Boston from 2005-2009. In 2011, his first method book was published, [\*The Total Flamenco Guitarist\*](#) (Alfred Press).

Juanito holds a Bachelor of Music in Contemporary Improvisation from New England Conservatory and won second prize in the 1996 New England Classical Guitar Competition. He has studied with Adam del Monte, Parrilla de Jerez, Manolo Sanlúcar, El Entri, jazz guitarist Gene Bertoncini, Boston-based maestro Dmitry Goryachev, and classical guitarists David Leisner and Eliot Fisk.

Valuing musicianship, creativity, and collaboration equally as tools to bring together international audiences, Juanito is a frequent collaborator with Spanish artists including Jorge Pardo, Alex Conde, and Isaac & Nino de los Reyes. He has also performed with Grammy-winning soprano Dawn Upshaw, jazz pianist Michel Camilo, Turkish multi-instrumentalist Omar Faruk Tekbilek, and Israeli cantor Emil Zrihan.

Through partnerships, Juanito has consistently sought ways to align his passion for music with environmental and social causes. Most notable is his ongoing collaboration with Earth Train, a Panamanian rainforest project which uses music and art as means to inspire and educate a new generation about environmental stewardship.

In 2003, Juanito completed his first album of all original flamenco compositions, *Cosas en Común*, to critical acclaim and frequent radio play in the U.S. and abroad. His second release, *Language of the Heart* (2009), is a tour de force of contemporary flamenco guitar music generously showcasing his talents as composer, arranger and producer, interwoven with the musical talents of famed flamenco, jazz, and world musicians.

**Singer: José Cortés Fernández** was born in the south of France in 1974 from an important gypsy family from Almería. At the age of ten, Jose began his career in Jerez de la Frontera where he won the "premio del joven aficionado del cante flamenco," accompanied on guitar by Terremoto hijo. He was immersed in the world of flamenco with the greatest artists, such as Terremoto, Pansequito, Camarón de la Isla, Moraito Chico and Tomatito. Since then, he has shared the stage with the best artists, including Belen Lopez, Alfonso Losa, Sergio Arranda, , Juan Ogalla ,María del Mar Moreno, Antonio de la Malena, manuel de la malena ,Mara Martinez, Andrés Peña, Pilar Ortega, Juan Carmona, david paniagua, juaniare , y nino de los reyes. He has sung for the workshops of Carmen Ledesma, Israel Galván, Angelita Gómez and Javier Latorre. In 2010, he moved to the United States and now works with many amazing artists such as Jason McGuire, Ricardo Diaz (and on his record Traversura), Yaelisa "Camino Flamencos", Carola Zertuche "Teatro Flamenco," Fanny Ara, Melissa Cruz, Cristina Hall, Jesus Muñoz, Jesus Montoya, Antonio de Jerez and Pedro Cortés. Recently Jose was invited to be Antonio Carmona's (Ketama) backup singer at the Nokia Theater for the Eva Longoria's Foundation.

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An incredible and traditional artist, José Cortés Fernández surprises us now by taking a step forward in his conception of flamenco by making pure flamenco live alongside other genres.

**Singer: La Conja**, is one of Flamenco World's most versatile artists. She has developed a substantial international reputation as a dancer, singer, and choreographer.

She has performed at the prestigious Guggenheim Work and Process Series, in collaboration with New York's World Music Institute. She has toured nationally and internationally with such artists as Jose Molina and Jose Greco featured as solo dancer, and has also appeared at Lincoln Center with Sarita Montiel.

Recent performances also include: Federico Gracia Lorca's, Blood Wedding, Savion Glover at the Joyce Theatre, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, in "Lorca in a Green Dress" written by 2003 Pulitzer Prize winner Nilo Cruz. JVC Jazz Festival with composer Maria Schneider. Rhythm, Ragas and Roots, with composer Osvaldo Golijov at Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Dancing into the 21 Century for Global India, a Kathak & Flamenco Fusion at American Museum of Natural History of New York, and The Great Mother Conference with poet Robert Bly.

As a choreographer her works have been premiered at The Teatro Albeniz in Madrid, Spain, The Joyce Theater in New York, Dance Theater Workshop and the Lincoln Center Out-of-Doors Concert Series. La Conja has been awarded three New York State Council on the Arts grants for her choreography, and she is commissioned repeatedly throughout the US to give master classes and choreograph for other companies. She has taught workshops at UCLA, Chicago's Old Town School of Folk Music, New York Universities Tisch School of the Arts, University of New Mexico, and Hamilton College. She has also worked very closely with theater Director Karin Coonrod on The Phoenician Woman performed at American Repertory Theater Cambridge & Moscow Art Theater.

Given her multicultural background (an American born of Egyptian parents with a Turkish surname) it is no wonder La Conja has naturally melded Arab, Spanish and Indian musical influences into her work. She weaves Flamenco music and dance together with original music and movement to reveal a uniquely modern performance. Charles Jurrist of the New York Daily News described her as a mesmerizing singer and demon dancer, and indeed, her dancing illustrates a show of force characteristic of the Art of Flamenco.