FESTIVAL BALLET PROVIDENCE PRESENTS A RARE DOUBLE-BILL IN
UP CLOSE ON HOPE / PROGRAM 2
An Evening of Two Passionate, Timeless Ballets

Providence, RI (January 14, 2015) – The second installment in Festival Ballet Providence’s (FBP) Up Close on Hope Black Box Theatre series consists of a rare double-bill program featuring two inspired ballets: Mihailo Djuric’s Soledad and Gianni Di Marco’s Scheherazade. The program runs February 6 - 14, 2015 at Festival Ballet Providence, 825 Hope Street, Friday nights at 8pm; Saturday nights at 7:30pm.

“We are taking a slight detour this time around,” said FBP Artistic Director Mihailo “Misha” Djuric, adding, “In the past, Up Close on Hope has been a program of several shorter works. This time, we wanted to give the audience a deeper experience into the ideas, emotions, and stories of each ballet, of course, within the exciting and intimate setting of our Black Box theater.”

Gianni Di Marco’s Scheherazade premiered at The Vets in 2005 and received critical acclaim for its passionate storytelling and dramatic choreography. Di Marco, a Boston Ballet dancer for 10 years, is familiar to FBP audiences, having choreographed numerous works since the Sheherazade premiere in Providence. “It’s a delight to revisit this ballet, which FBP hasn’t performed since 2007,” Mr. Djuric said. “Each time we return to Scheherazade it changes and matures. Gino [Mr. Di Marco] has choreographed many ballets, but Scheherazade is without a doubt his most compelling work to date.”

Set to the evocative and haunting score by Rimsky-Korsakov, the ballet tells the story of Zobeide and her passionate but forbidden romance with the Golden Slave. Longtime FBP dancer Jennifer Ricci, renowned for her spellbinding portrayal of Zobeide in previous stagings, will reprise the role.

Also on the bill is a 20 year-old work by Misha Djuric - Soledad, “loneliness” in Spanish. The ballet, for five couples, is set in cafe society to sensual, stirring tangos by the revolutionary composer and creator of “nuevo tango” (“new tango”), Astor Piazzolla. The ballet creates an atmosphere of melancholy, with dancers exploring romance and loneliness while wrapped in Piazzolla’s sultry melodies. FBP toured the work to seven cities in Venezuela. This is the first time it will be seen in the United States since 2006.

Mr. Djuric said, “Soledad is an emotion we can all understand, whether we like it or not. Life sometimes brings out raw emotions, and our internal feelings are often hard to escape -- no matter how life continues around us.”

Tickets are $50 and admission includes an intermission reception with complimentary wine and hors d’oeuvres. The reception offers a unique chance to meet and mingle with some of the artistic staff and cast.
Up Close on Hope
Program 2 - Scheherazade and Soledad
FBP Black Box Theatre
825 Hope Street, Providence, RI 02906
Tickets: 401-353-1129 or festivalballetprovidence.org
Friday, February 6, 2015 - 8:00pm
Saturday, February 7, 2015 - 7:30pm
Friday, February 13, 2015 - 8:00pm
Saturday, February 14, 2015 - 7:30pm

Scheherazade
Music: Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov (1844-1908)
Choreography: Gianni Di Marco
World Premiere: February, 2005, Veterans Memorial Auditorium, Providence, RI
Synopsis: (As in other ballet adaptations, the story of the ballet has nothing to do with Sultana Scheherazade herself, but rather lays the groundwork for the subsequent story of Arabian Nights, wherein Scheherazade wards off a seemingly imminent execution by regaling King Shahriar thousands of stories; indeed the story of Zobeide is one of these tales)
After King Shahriar leaves to go hunting, his favorite concubine Zobeide convinces his head eunuch to open his harem to the slaves, including her secret lover, the Golden Slave. But the King's departure was a mere ruse to catch Zobeide cheating. The ensuing orgy ends with Shahriar's early return and a massacre of the revelers. As Shahriar waivers over her fate, Zobeide stabs herself and dies, leaving him in despair.

Soledad
Music: Astor Piazzolla (1921-1992)
Choreography: Mihailo Djuric
World Premiere: 1995, The Music Hall, Portsmouth, NH
Soledad explores a universal truth: that loneliness and longing are inescapable parts of life (soledad means loneliness in Spanish). Moments, however meaningful, romantic, are nonetheless fleeting, becoming memories in an instant. We never truly understand the "woman in black," yet she is all of us. She clings to her memories, as we do, hoping to escape or at least subdue the deep and abiding loneliness within us all.