

Mondavi Center
UCDAVIS



Malpaso Dance Company

Indomitable Waltz, Tabula Rasa, and A Dancing Island

Saturday, January 31, 2026 | 7:30 PM

Jackson Hall

A Season of Debuts and Discovery



Discovery Awaits is the theme of the Mondavi Center's 25-26 Season, continuing and building on last season's commitment to artist debuts. From January through March, 12 of the 14 artists we present

will be appearing for the first time. It's an impressive bunch, if we do say so ourselves!

Our roster of debut artists ranges from those in the early stages of building stellar careers, to established (and in one case legendary) ensembles making their long-awaited first appearances.

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra, led by Maestro Riccardo Muti, are the legends in the lineup, and an ensemble we've been trying to bring to Davis since the Mondavi Center opened more than two decades ago.

Malpaso Dance Company's debut has been a long and winding labor of love. I had the chance to see this incredible company at home in Havana in 2018, after which we immediately booked them for our 19-20 Season. COVID had other plans. It took us eight years to rebook them. It was so worth the wait.

As part of an increased focus on the African diaspora in our programming, we will welcome for the first time the extraordinary Ghanaian singer and storyteller Okaidja Afroso, followed a few weeks later by the Ndlovu Youth Choir from South Africa. As well, AlSarah & The Nubatones make their debut, bringing their special brand of "East African retro-pop" for two nights in the Vanderhoef Studio Theatre.

Violinist Randall Goosby, who was among our most popular debut artists in the 24-25 Season, returns as part of the debut of the Sphinx Virtuosi. Sphinx is an organization dedicated to increasing representation in classical music and developing exceptional talent. This is our first time working with them on a performance. I'm sure it won't be our last.

It has been impressive and deeply meaningful to witness how the Mondavi Center community has embraced the spirit of discovery and our mission to support rising stars.

For that I am deeply grateful.

Discovery Awaits,

Jeremy Ganter
Executive Director

ROBERT AND MARGRIT MONDAVI CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS PRESENTS

Malpaso Dance Company

An Associate Company of Joyce Theater Productions

Executive Director and Co-Founder / Fernando Sáez

Artistic Director and Co-Founder / Osnel Delgado

Associate Artistic Director and Co-Founder / Daileidys Carrazana

Ballet Masters / Mercedes Piedra and Dailys Bacallao

Stage Manager / Diana Rosa Hernandez

Production Manager & Lighting Supervisor / Manuel Da Silva

Company Manager / Bridget Caston

Dancers

Esteban Aguilar

Daileidys Carrazana

Dayron Dominguez

Esven González

Liz Marian Lorenzo

Daño Ortega

Laura Rodriguez

Iliana Solis

Jennifer Suárez Ramos

Carlos Valladares

Greta Yero

Producer / Joyce Theater Productions

Booking Agent / Anne-Camille Hersh, EnPointe Management

Land Acknowledgement

We should take a moment to acknowledge the land on which we are gathered. For thousands of years, this land has been the home of Patwin people. Today, there are three federally recognized Patwin tribes: Cachil DeHe Band of Wintun Indians of the Colusa Indian Community, Kletsel Dehe Wintun Nation, and Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation.

The Patwin people have remained committed to the stewardship of this land over many centuries. It has been cherished and protected, as elders have instructed the young through generations. We are honored and grateful to be here today on their traditional lands.

excellence.ucdavis.edu

PROGRAM

Indomitable Waltz (2016)

Choreography: Aszure Barton

Music: Alexander Balanescu, Michael Nyman and Nils Frahm

Waltz by Alexander Balanescu

The Young Conscript and the Moon by Alexander Balanescu

Love Scene by Alexander Balanescu

String Quartet No.2: 2.II by Michael Nyman

Circling by Nils Frahm

04:33 by Nils Frahm

Costume Design: Fritz Masten

Lighting Design: Nicole Pearce

Lighting Supervisor: Manuel Da Silva

Indomitable Waltz was made possible by the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project, with lead funding from; the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, the Executive Director's Fund at The Joyce Theater Foundation, and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, with additional support from the National Endowment for the Arts. It was co-commissioned by DANCECleveland and the Cleveland Foundation.

A technical residency was generously provided by Duncan Theater at Palm Beach State College for the US premiere of *Indomitable Waltz* by Aszure Barton.

- PAUSE -

Tabula Rasa (1986)

Choreography: Ohad Naharin

Choreographic Assistants: Matan David, Bret Easterling

Music: *Tabula Rasa* by Arvo Part

Costumes: Eri Nakamura

Lighting Design: Ohad Naharin

Tabula Rasa made its world premiere on the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre on February 6, 1986. It premiered on Malpas Dance Company on May 4, 2018 in Havana, Cuba. Special support for the restaging of *Tabula Rasa* for Malpas Dance Company was provided by the Jerome L. Greene Foundation in honor of Karen Hopkins.

- INTERMISSION -

A Dancing Island (2023)

Choreography: Osnel Delgado

Music: Alejandro Falcón, Ted Nash & Cubadentro Trio

Costume Design: Guido Gali

Lighting Design: Manuel Da Silva

"A Dancing Island is a celebration of the dense social dances and musical tradition of Cuba, a journey from rumba to son." - Malpas Executive Director Fernando Sáez

About the Malpaso Dance Company

Since its establishment in 2012, Malpaso has become one of the most sought after Cuban dance companies with a growing international profile. Emphasizing a collaborative creative process, Malpaso is committed to working with top international choreographers while also nurturing new voices in Cuban choreography.

The company tours with 11 dancers and is led by its three original founders: resident choreographer and Artistic Director Osnel Delgado, Executive Director Fernando Sáez, and Associate Artistic Director Daile Carrazana.

An Associate Company of Joyce Theater Productions, Malpaso - together with The Joyce Theater - has commissioned original works from a number of prominent North American choreographers, including Ronald K. Brown (*Why You Follow*), Trey McIntyre (*Under Fire*), Azure Barton (*Indomitable Waltz; Stillness in Bloom*), Tony and Emmy award winner Sonya Tayeh (*Face the Torrent*), Robyn Mineko Williams (*Elemental*) and Ephrat Asherie (*Floor...y ando!*). The company continues to tour works by Artistic Director Osnel Delgado, including *Ocaso*, *24 Hours and a Dog*, and *Dreaming of Lions*, which are often accompanied by Grammy award winning, Cuban-American composer and pianist Arturo O'Farrill and the Afro Latin Jazz Ensemble. More recently the troop has collaborated with celebrated musicians Ted Nash, Alejandro Falcón and Cubadentro Trio.

As part of its commitment to Cuban choreographers, Malpaso's repertory includes works by company members Daile Carrazana (*Lullaby for Insomnia and Habanera*). In recent seasons, the company has added works by three legendary choreographers: Mats Ek, Ohad Naharin, and Merce Cunningham. Ek's *woman with water* was premiered on Malpaso in Havana in 2021. Naharin traveled to Cuba in the spring of 2018 to work one-on-one with Malpaso dancers to restage his seldom performed, 30-year-old masterwork, *Tabula Rasa*, while Cunningham's *Fielding Sixes* was adapted for eight dancers and re-staged by Jamie Scott as part of the choreographer's centennial celebration.

Malpaso Dance Company has shared its work with audiences around the United States, including such prestigious venues as The Joyce Theater, The Kennedy Center, LA Music Center, Chicago Auditorium, American Dance Festival, Jacob's Pillow, and around the world at the International Summer Festival Kampnagel in Hamburg, Germany, Belgrade Dance Festival and at the Champs-Elysees Theater in Paris.

For more information, please visit malpasodance.com

About the Artists

Fernando Sáez Founder and Executive Director

Fernando Sáez graduated from the School of Performing Arts at the Superior Institute of Arts (ISA) in Havana in 1988. He is also a founder and actor of Estudio Teatral de Santa Clara, was the head of the Sociocultural Development Project in Las Terrazas, Pinar del Rio from 1993 to 1997, and he served on the staff of the Ludwig Foundation of Cuba since 1998 to 2014. He is also a member of the Foundation's Board of Directors.



choreographers such as Sonya Tayeh, Robyn Mineko Williams, Jan Linkens, Samir Akika, Pedro Ruiz, Isidro Rolando, Aszure Barton, Mats Ek, Ohad Naharin, Ron K. Brown, among others. She has created choreographic works for her company Malpaso and for students of Toronto Metropolitan University. She has collaborated with different musicians: "Lullaby for Insomnia" with Jordi Sabatés (Barcelona) and in the piece "Habanera" with Miguel Núñez (Cuba).

Diana Rosa Hernandez Stage Manager

Diana Rosa Hernandez graduated from the National School of Arts with a degree in acting in 2008. She is a member of Teatro Espontáneo de La Habana. Hernandez worked in the HavanaBama collaboration between the University of Alabama and Cuba. Since she joined Malpaso in March 2014, she has worked with choreographers such as Ron K. Brown, Trey McIntyre, Aszure Barton, Sonya Tayeh, Robyn Mineko Williams, Ohad Naharin, Mats Ek, Ephrat Asherie and among others. Diana Has worked also as lighting designers such as Al Crawford, Manuel Da Silva, Nicole Pearce, Burke Brown and Ellen Ruge.



Osnel Delgado Founder, Artistic Director and Dancer

Osnel Delgado danced with Danza Contemporanea de Cuba from 2003 to 2011, before founding Malpaso. He has worked with choreographers Mats Ek, Rafael Bonachela, Kenneth Kvarnström, Ja Linkens, Itzik Galili, Samir Akika, Pedro Ruiz, Isidro Rolando and George Cespedes, among others. Delgado has created works for DCC, Rakatan and Ebony Dance of Cuba. Delgado is a 2003 graduate of the National Dance School of Havana, where he is also a professor of dance studies.



Manuel Da Silva Lighting Supervisor

Manuel Da Silva was born in Caracas, Venezuela and raised in South Florida where he developed a passion for theatre and the arts at a young age. Manuel attended The University of North Carolina School of the Arts where he received his BFA in Lighting Design and Technology. Now an NYC based lighting designer, Manuel has had the chance to work with several Off-Broadway theatre companies, including designing the world premiere of La Tía Julia y el Escribidor at El Repertorio Español. Manuel has also had the opportunity to display his work at the Gilbert Hemsley Lighting Portfolio Review and the National Design Showcase East.

Daileidys Carrazana (Daile) Founder, Artistic Director and Dancer

Daile graduated from the National Ballet School of Havana in 2003. She was a member of Danza Contemporánea de Cuba from 2003 to 2011, before founding Malpaso with Osnel Delgado and Fernando Saez. Daile has worked with



Esteban Aguilar
Dancer

Before joining Malpaso in February 2016, Esteban studied dance at ISA (Superior Institute of Arts)'s Faculty of Dance and was a member of Danza Fragmentada Company (2002-2014). He has worked with choreographers like Aszure Barton, Osnel Delgado, Sonya Tayeh, Robyn Mineko Williams, Aszure Barton, Mats Ek, Ohad Naharin, Ron K. Brown, Daile Carrazana, Ephrat Asherie, among others.



Liz Marian Lorenzo
Dancer

Liz Marian Lorenzo graduated from the Alfonso Pérez Isaac Art School of Matanzas and the National Dance School Fernando Alonso in 2022. An award-winning student in international competitions, Liz performed works in the repertoire of the National Ballet of Cuba by Alicia Alonso, Ramona de Saa, and Ely Regina Hernandez, Numa. She joined Malpaso Dance Company in 2022.



Dayron Dominguez
Dancer

Dayron Dominguez graduated from Eduardo Abela Elemental Art School in San Antonio de Los Baños and from the National Dance School in Havana Cuba in 2022. He joined Malpaso Dance Company upon graduation.



Dario Ortega
Dancer

Dario Ortega graduated from the National Ballet School Fernando Alonso in 2020. He joined Micompania in 2019 where he danced works by company's founder and director Suasano Pous. He joined Malpaso Dance Company in 2023.



Esven Gonzalez
Dancer

Esven Gonzalez graduated from the National School of Dance in 2014. In September of that same year he joined Danza Contemporánea de Cuba company. He has worked with choreographers such as Theo Clinkard, Anabell López Ochoa, Lea Anderson, George Cespedes, among others. He has toured nationwide and abroad in countries and organizations such as the City Center in New York, National Auditorium in Mexico, La Maison de Lyon in France, as well as various venues in Great Britain, Monaco, Germany, Switzerland and Russia.



Laura Rodriguez
Dancer

Laura Rodriguez graduated from the Vocational Dance School Benny Moré in Cienfuegos in 2014 and from the National Dance School in Havana in 2018. She joined Danza Contemporánea de Cuba in 2017 where she danced works by choreographers such as George Cespedes, Yoerlis Brunet, Billy Cowie, Christopher Beranger, among others. She joined Malpaso Dance Company in 2023.



Iliana Solis
Dancer

Iliana Solis is a dancer and dance teacher who graduated from Raul Gomez García Art School in Holguín, Cuba. She was a member of Codanza Dance Company from 2006 to 2013. From 2006 to 2008 she also worked as professor at José Martí Pérez Arts Instructors School. She joined Danza Contemporánea de Cuba in 2015. She became a member of Malpaso Dance Company in 2019. Ileana has worked with choreographers such as Theo Clinkard, Billy Cowie, Lea Anderson, Fleur Darken and Anabel López Ochoa, among others.



Carlos Valladares
Dancer

Carlos Valladares graduated from the Samuel Feijó Professional School of Art in Santa Clara in 2017 and from the Acosta Danza School in 2022, where he danced works from the company's repertoire created by the choreographers Alexis Fernández and Raúl Reynoso. He joins Malpaso in November 2022. He has danced works by choreographers such Ohad Naharin, Aszure Barton, Osnel Delgado, and Ron K Brown.



Jennifer Suarez Ramos
Dancer

Jennifer Suarez Ramos graduated from the Acosta Danza Academy where she worked with choreographers such as Jorge Crecis, Pontus Lidberg, Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, and Goyo Montero. She has performed in theaters and events both in Cuba and abroad including the Holland Dance Festival, Venice Biennale, Budapest Dance Festival, and The Royal Ballet.



Greta Yero Ortiz
Dancer

Greta Yero Ortiz graduated from the Fernando Alonso National Ballet School in 2017. She also received training at the Ruth Page Center and Quenedit Ballet School in the United States. In the same year of her graduation, she was part of the National Ballet of Cuba, where she assumed various relevant roles. She joins Malpaso in 2022. She has danced works by choreographers such Ohad Naharin, Daile Carrazana and Osnel Delgado.



Joyce Theater Productions

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Joyce Theater Productions is the in-house producing entity for The Joyce Theater Foundation, Inc., formed to create original work for The Joyce's stage and for worldwide touring. The initiative provides dance artists who have little or no formal management or infrastructure the means to create productions of the highest standards of excellence. The program also includes the Associate Company model, offering sustained producing, fiscal and/or administrative management to companies that may require short or longer term support. Originally founded in partnership with Sunny Artist Management, Inc. (SAM) in 2014, JTP has since supported projects with Daniil Simkin, Wendy Whelan/Brian Brooks, Arthur Pita/James Whiteside, Maria Kochetkova, Caleb Teicher, Alexei Ratmansky, Molissa Fenley, and L.A. Dance Project, and maintains an ongoing relationship with Cuba's Malpaso Dance Company.

For booking information, please contact Anne-Camille Hersh from EnPointe Management achersh@enpointemanagement.com

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