

HMD'S THE BRIDGE PROJECT ANNOUNCES
Danzacuentos: Voz, Cuerpo y Raíces

An online exhibit featuring interviews with Latin American and Indigenous dance makers: Snowflake Calvert, Dulce & Marianna Escobedo, Cinthia Pérez Navarro and Lyvan Verdecia

August 30, 2021 through August 2022



Clockwise from top left: Cinthia Pérez Navarro, photo by Will Kerner; Dulce Escobedo Muñoz, photo courtesy of the artist; Marianna Escobedo, photo by Javier D. Parra; Lyvan Verdecia, photo by Paula Lobo; Snowflake Calvert, photo by Lydia Daniller.

danzacuentos.org

SAN FRANCISCO, CA, August 20, 2021 – HMD's The Bridge Project is proud to announce the newest offering in its **Anti-Racism and Dance Series**: an online exhibit featuring bilingual interviews with Latin American and Indigenous dance makers titled **DANZACUENTOS: VOZ, CUERPO Y RAÍCES** (*Dance Stories: Voice, Body and Roots*). Organized into four parts, the exhibit will offer portraits of several artists who are making a mark in the world of dance today. The artists include **Snowflake Calvert** (formerly Snowflake Towers), sisters **Dulce** and **Marianna Escobedo**, **Cinthia Pérez Navarro** and **Lyvan Verdecia**.

The exhibit, offered both in Spanish and English, will launch free to the public on Monday, August 30 with a ticketed, livestreamed panel event to follow on Friday, September 17 at 5 p.m. PT. All content, including event registration, will be housed at danzacuentos.org.

Danzacuentos is the brainchild of **Mario Ismael Espinoza**, **David Herrera** together with The Bridge Project Co-Director **Karla Quintero**, three leaders in dance who have teamed up to expand public awareness for the diversity of experiences, identities and challenges that exist among artists with Latin American and Indigenous heritage. “There are many strategies for undoing bias – racial, cultural or otherwise,” said Quintero. “Listening is one of them.”

Through the collection of audio interviews, performance videos, photos and other materials, *Danzacuentos* aims to “change the face, the look, the conversation and the sound of dance and performance by purposefully centering and uplifting diverse Latinx, Hispanic and Indigenous artists,” said Herrera.

“Here in the United States, the dominant narrative around Hispanic, Latinx and Indigenous people puts us in tiny generic boxes that focus solely on our plight while making model minorities of those of us who manage to operate within the very system that continues to oppress us,” added Espinoza. “We’re interested in giving these artists a platform to tell their story in their own words – how they approach their work, what their relationship is to family, to *latinidad* and to other aspects of identity.”

The exhibit is slated to run online for one year. Ancillary events, like the livestreamed panel discussion on September 17, are in the planning stage, and will be announced at a later time. Next month’s panel will include all of the featured artists in a conversation moderated by *Danzacuentos*’ three curators. Language interpretation in English and Spanish will be offered. Tickets are \$0 - \$50, with a sliding scale. To register visit hmd.ticketleap.com.

ABOUT THE FEATURED ARTISTS

Snowflake Calvert is a Two-Spirit artist of Yaqui, Raramuri and Tzotzil Mayan heritage. She currently serves as the president of Queers United for Intersectional Liberation, producing events throughout California and Oregon. In addition, she is a professional dancer, teacher and entrepreneur. Her current project, titled *Seeds and Sequins*, is a collaboration with Europa Grace, a mixed-race, Black and trans artist. In individual solos they use movement, performance art and drag as tools to explore their personal lineages and as ways to heal past trauma. Among Calvert’s past and present affiliations are The Haus of Towers, the Bay Area American Indian Two-Spirit Powwow, Dancing Earth Indigenous Contemporary Dance Creations, and The Dance Zone Studio.

Sisters **Dulce** and **Marianna Escobedo Muñoz** are the founders of the Conservatorio de Danza México, whose mission is to offer professional, multidisciplinary training to dancers in Tijuana, Mexico. They also co-direct the Festival Internacional de Danza Veinte Once, which has received support from México’s National Endowment for Culture and Arts. Since 2015, Marianna has served as the operations manager for Producciones Escobedo, where she staged dance works and galas for dance companies including Litz Alfonso Dance Cuba, Teatr3s (Barcelona, Spain), Ballet del Noroeste de México, Joffrey Ballet School and

the Lombard Twins (New York). She is a member of the International Dance Council, an organization of the UNESCO member states bridging all forms of dance. The sisters' choreographic inquiries have taken them around the world, from Mexico and the United States to Cuba, Spain, Italy and Israel, where they have created projects for the stage, the street and the camera.

Cinthia Pérez Navarro is a dancer, teacher and independent performance maker originally from Puebla, Mexico. She currently teaches at the Body Mind Movement School in México, the Centro de Estudios Superiores Sisti and the Ibero-American University at Puebla where she is head of Contemporary Dance. Navarro is a member of the bi-national, interdisciplinary collective Chicken Bank as well as the performance collective XIP, where she creates contemporary theater works for the stage. She also coordinates RISOMA Retiro CI México and jams for Puebla's contact improvisation community.

Lyvan Verdecia, a recipient of the prestigious Princess Grace Award, was born in Havana, Cuba. He graduated from the National Ballet School of Cuba in 2013, immediately joining the National Ballet of Cuba, where he developed as a dancer and choreographer for one year. He's currently serving his fourth season with Ballet Hispanico. Along with performing and choreographing, Verdecia enjoys teaching. He has taught classes and workshops with Ballet Hispanico as well as the National Ballet of Cuba, Kingsport Ballet, the New Jersey Dance Theater Ensemble and Art Vida Academy.

ABOUT THE CURATORS

Mario Ismael Espinoza is a Mexican immigrant born to native Mexican people in Kumeyaay territory. Espinoza transitioned to the field of social work and human services after 12 years in professional concert dance, performing with Odyssey Dance Theater in Salt Lake City; Company C Contemporary Ballet and ODC/Dance in San Francisco; and Ballet Hispanico in New York. Currently a social worker with The Actors Fund, Espinoza provides mental health services and clinical case management for entertainment industry professionals.

David Herrera is a gay Latinx choreographer, producer and community leader based in San Francisco, California. Herrera holds undergraduate degrees in American Studies and Theater Arts, and a graduate certificate in Theater & Dance from the University of California-Santa Cruz. In 2007, he launched David Herrera Performance Company (DHPCo.) as a response to the lack of Latinx representation in the United States modern/contemporary dance field. Through DHPCo., he has launched LatinXtensions, a 12-month mentorship for emerging Latinx and Hispanic dance artists, and Latinx Hispanic Dancers United, a national caucus, pipeline and networking platform from which working artists unite to form coalitions, to collaborate and to gain cultural and political power.

Herrera serves as advisor to the Festival of Latin American Contemporary Choreographers. He is an Isadora Duncan Dance Awards (Izzies) committee member where he serves as publicity chair in addition to serving on the Izzies' Equity, Diversity and Inclusion sub-committee. Herrera is also co-facilitator of Dancing Around Race, a community arts organization dedicated to the research and implementation of cultural equity in the dance sector led by Gerald Casel. Herrera also mentors homeless individuals through the Community Housing Partnership in San Francisco, and has served on many grant and opportunity panels.

Karla Quintero is a Latin American, Oakland-based artist whose work explores themes of intimacy, consumption, biculturalism and defamiliarization. Dance improvisation is her primary tool, but her creative work orients beyond dance. She performs in the works of other artists, including Gerald Casel, Catherine Galasso and Hope Mohr, and she co-directs The Bridge Project, an equity-driven arts presenting platform.

ABOUT HMD'S THE BRIDGE PROJECT

The Bridge Project, a program of HMD, creates and supports equity-driven live art that builds community and centers artists as agents of change. The Bridge Project, co-directed by Cherie Hill, Hope Mohr and Karla Quintero, consists of the following programs: a Community Engagement Residency, a Multidisciplinary Performance Series, a Teaching Artist Series and a Public Dialogue Series. "Creating spaces for debate, dissent, connection and collaboration, The Bridge Project offers a model for how to build arts community" (Columbia University's Jack Halberstam). More information at bridgeproject.art.

FACT SHEET

WHAT:

HMD's The Bridge Project presents **DANZACUENTOS: VOZ, CUERPO Y RAÍCES** (*Dance Stories: Voice, Body and Roots*), an online exhibit featuring bilingual interviews with Latin American and Indigenous dance makers including **Snowflake Calvert**, sisters **Dulce** and **Marianna Escobedo**, **Cinthia Pérez Navarro** and **Lyvan Verdecia**.

WHEN:

Exhibit Opening: **August 30, 2021**

Livestreamed Panel Discussion: **September 17, 2021** at 5 p.m. PT

WHERE:

Virtual at danzacuentos.org

TICKETS:

The online exhibit is **free**.

Tickets to the panel discussion are **\$0 - \$50**, sliding scale. To register visit hmd.ticketleap.com.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

bridgeproject.art

For all press inquiries please contact John Hill at johnhillpr@gmail.com.