

## NEWS RELEASE

*Additional photos available upon request*



### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, October 1, 2018

## BALLET FLAMENCO LA ROSA DEBUTS WORLD PREMIERE OF *EL CONDE DRACULA*

**MIAMI – Ballet Flamenco La Rosa (BFLR)**, an international flamenco dance company, based in Miami and made up of dancers and musicians from Spain, Latin America and the U.S., presents the **World Premiere of *El Conde Dracula***. Created and choreographed by **Artistic Director of BFLR, Ilisa Rosal**, the piece was derived from Bram Stokers' *Dracula*. It inspired the creation of a potent and vivid Flamenco Ballet, connecting with this timeless material to create a new incarnation of what is probably the most definitive work in this genre. The performances will take place **on Saturday, November 24, 2018 at 8:00 p.m.** and **Sunday, November 25, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.** at the historic **Colony Theatre on Miami Beach**.

This production features 14 dancers and musicians, including six top artists directly from Spain led by Special Guest Artist Pepe Flores, one of the most important artists of his time, in the role of Count Dracula. He will be joined by dancers Agustin Barajas, Juan Mateo and Fran Bas along with singer Luis Moreno and guitarist Miguel Aguilera, who will create and perform original vocals and lyrics for the work. The story and characters help audiences relate to what is being expressed by the music and dance, which becomes a universal language. It creates an exciting and inspiring theater experience.

In the play, a young lawyer (Jonathan Harker) is assigned to a gloomy village in the midst of Eastern Europe. Harker is captured and imprisoned by the undead vampire Dracula, who travels to London, inspired by a photograph of Harker's betrothed, Mina Murray. In Britain, Dracula begins a reign of seduction and terror, draining the life from Mina's closest friend, Lucy Westenra. Abraham Van Helsing, the archenemy of Count Dracula, adds a special twist to the story, as Lucy's friends gather together to try to drive Dracula away.

With its earthy strength, spellbinding athleticism, subtle nuances and explosive energy, Flamenco will tell this story in a new and mesmerizing way. The themes provide ample opportunity to explore Flamenco's range and power and will resonate with diverse audiences.

“Count Dracula is a figure of intense strength and a reflection of something that is inside each of us. We embrace this story as a fable of identity, making it our own,” remarked Rosal. “Audiences will be intrigued by the lure of this great novel, its characters and the connection with the plethora of vampire stories and tales that are so familiar.”

Generations of audiences have been enthralled by this quintessential myth of terror and temptation and the struggle between good and evil. It speaks to our search to understand the essence of strength, love, passion, seduction, loyalty, honor, heroism, the supernatural, the spiritual and the profane.

**WHAT:** Ballet Flamenco La Rosa, *El Conde Dracula*

**WHEN:** Saturday, November 24, at 8 p.m.  
Sunday, November 25, at 3 p.m.

**WHERE:** Colony Theatre  
1040 Lincoln Rd, Miami Beach, FL 33139

**TICKETS:** In advance: VIP \$40, General Admission \$30; Students & Seniors \$20.  
Prices increase at the door.

For more information about Ballet Flamenco La Rosa, visit [www.balletflamencolarosa.com](http://www.balletflamencolarosa.com) or follow them on [Facebook](#).

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### **About Ballet Flamenco La Rosa, authentic Flamenco in Miami**

Ballet Flamenco La Rosa is an international company dedicated to Flamenco as an art form in constant evolution. Based in Miami and made up of dancers and musicians from Spain, Latin America, and the U.S., the company presents flamenco dance at its best, beyond traditional boundaries, surprising and enlightening students and the public with the beauty and magic of this theatrical dance form.

With cross-cultural collaborations, international guest artists, and an extensive repertoire, Ballet Flamenco La Rosa is one of the few U.S. flamenco companies dedicated to the development and presentation of the art of flamenco with a sophisticated combination of theater, traditional flamenco and original choreography that makes a consummate theatrical experience. The cutting edge approach in the company's cross-cultural fusion works develops the connection between flamenco and other dance styles, and explores the commonalities to create new forms of dance. These have included Tap, Jazz, Blues, Middle Eastern, Afro-Cuban, Irish, African, Sephardic and Indian dances. In addition, the company has created numerous dramatic Flamenco Ballets, including Herodías, Las Mujeres de Troya, Cleopatra y Cesar, Rey Lear, La Dama Macbeth, Directo al Corazón, Señorita Julia, El Padre, La Gaviota and La Casa de la Muneca.

BFLR offers classes in Flamenco dance, vocals and guitar for children, teens and adults at all levels. Additional classes are available in Ballet, Belly Dance, Jazz/Hip Hop, Acting, Piano, Vocals and Classical/Folk Guitar.

### **About Ilisa Rosal - Flamenco Dancer, Teacher, Choreographer, Founder and Artistic Director of Ballet Flamenco La Rosa and PAN, Performing Arts Network**

Ilisa Rosal is an innovator in this art form, having created more than one hundred pieces in the pure Flamenco style, along with cross-cultural collaborations and dramatic Flamenco Ballets. She has trained many of the Flamenco dancers in Miami, who have gone on to form their own companies. Under her leadership, Ballet Flamenco La Rosa has become respected as one of the best companies in the US, consistently performing to full houses with standing ovations and rave reviews.

Ilisa Rosal's training includes extensive study in Spain with Ciro, El Guito, La Tati, Azorin, Manolete, Paco Fernandez, Mercedes and Albano, Jose Granero and Paco Romero. In 1981, Rosal studied in New York with Jose Molina (Flamenco and Classical Spanish dance), Mariano Parra (Escuela Bolera), Jeanne Brescianni (Isadora Duncan Technique) , Rajika Puri ( Bharata Natyam ) and Charles Moore ( African dance ) . From 1975-1980, she studied Spanish dance with Luisita Sevilla and Jose Molina. She trained intensively in ballet with Susan Stadler, David Howard and Nanette Charisse and Modern Jazz (Luigi technique) with Beatrice LaVerne. She studied drama at the University of Miami and performed in community theatre throughout South Florida, then toured New York, Spain, and France with many Spanish ballets.

In 1985 Ilisa Rosal founded and became the artistic director of Ballet Flamenco La Rosa. This flamenco company has been invited to perform at major local events such as Ocean Dance, Pow Wow, Arts a la carte, Coconut Grove Orchid Festival, Miami Beach Arts Festival, Miami Dance Festival and the Florida Dance Festival, as well as national appearances in such prestigious events as the Vail International Dance Festival. She exhibited and danced at the National Dance Guild Conference and received four Dance Miami Choreographer's Fellowships and three Individual Artist's Fellowships for choreography from The State of Florida Division of Cultural Affairs.

Ms. Rosal's most recent works include "Señorita Julia" (Miss Julie) and "El Padre" (The Father) inspired by Strindberg's Miss Julie and The Father, which premiered in 2013 and 2015 at the Koubek Center and at the Miami Dade County Auditorium, and "La Gaviota" (The Seagull) inspired by Chekov's The Seagull and "La Casa de la Muñeca" (The Dolls House) inspired by Ibsen's A Dolls House, which premiered in 2017 and 2018.

### **About Pepe Flores – Guest Artist - Dancer/Choreographer/Instructor**

Pepe Flores trained in Flamenco dance at several schools in Madrid and Barcelona, as well as at the Ciudad Condal Dance's Conservator, and went on to become one of the most well-known flamenco artists of his generation. He trained in Barcelona at "Institut del Teatre", "Escuela de Danza Carmen Contreras", "Escuela de Danza Gloria Belen" and "Escuela de Danza Amor de Dios" with teachers Cristobal Reyes, Manuel Reyes, Domingo Ortega and La China.

He has performed in numerous theaters, night clubs and tablaos, as well as with some of the most respected dance companies in Spain, where he has received acclaim for his outstanding artistry and charisma. These include the Carmen Mota and Rafael Aguilar companies in which he performed as a soloist in such important works as "Bolero" and "Yerma". He performed in tablaos as Palacio del Flamenco, Tarantos, el Carmen and Patio Andaluz in Barcelona, Spain. He also performed at Corral de la Pachea and Café Chinita in Madrid and in Granada he performed at Tablao Albaicín, La Faraona and Pena La Plateria.

Mr. Flores performed as a soloist with Compañía Carmen Moran, Compañía Rafael Aguilar and Compañía Rafael Amargo touring with “Enramblao”, TVE (Spanish National Television). He performed in “Hechizo” in Italy, Spain and Egypt. Mr. Flores was awarded the “Premio Nacional de Baile por Alegria de la Perla de Cadiz” in Spain. He also was a finalist for the “Certamen Nacional de Coreografia”.

Pepe Flores was introduced as an emerging choreographer in 2015, where he showcased “Aire Sin Ti”, at the Coreografia de Madrid contest, where he was a finalist. In 2006 he was one of the winners at the “Baile por Alegrias” Perla de Cadiz national contest.

His television appearances include TVE, a stellar performance at the Hechizo Perfume’s presentation galas from Seville designers Victorio and Lucchino in Sevilla, Madrid, Lanzarote and Cerdeño and he was the winner of the TV show “Gran Hermano” (Big Brother) , presented by Mercedes Mila, which made him a household name in Spain.

Mr. Flores continued his dedication to the art of flamenco, successfully premiering his two most recent works, “Mi Verdad” and “Por Derecho”, to great critical and public acclaim. He is currently preparing his new piece, “Pasaje”, scheduled to open in Valencia.

In 2016 he performed with Ballet Flamenco La Rosa in La Gaviota, a Flamenco Ballet inspired in Chekov’s “The Seagull”, which premiered at the Colony Theatre in Miami Beach, Florida. In 2017 he was an International Guest Artist in Fuerza Flamenca, presented at The Gleason Room at the Fillmore Theatre also in Miami Beach. In 2018 he was the International Guest Artist in Corazon Flamenco, presented at The Gleason Room at the Fillmore Theatre also in Miami Beach.

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