

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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A special benefit presentation of
INTIMO...Aparicio & Greco at GALA
October 20, 2008

Carmela Greco and Edwin Aparicio come together
to herald the upcoming Fourth Annual *Fuego Flamenco Festival*,

Washington, DC – GALA announces an exclusive presentation of the celebrated flamenco work, *Intimo*, by Edwin Aparicio, the most popular male flamenco soloist in the nation, accompanied by the renowned Spanish dancer Carmela Greco, daughter of the legendary Jose Greco. *Intimo* will be performed at GALA Hispanic Theatre at Tivoli Square, 3333 14th Street, NW, on Monday, October 20 at 7:30 pm. The evening will open with a musical selection by famed Spanish flamenco guitarist Abraham Carmona, presented in collaboration with The Embassy of Spain in Washington, DC. A cocktail reception to “meet and greet” the artists will follow the performance.

All proceeds from this benefit event will support GALA’s annual *Fuego Flamenco*, a three-week long festival from Nov.20-Dec.7, featuring cutting-edge flamenco artists from Spain and the United States, as well as free demonstrations and roundtables for children and families, making this time-honored art form accessible across diverse cultures and generations. The *Fuego Flamenco Festival* is produced in collaboration with the Embassy of Spain and Fundación Conservatorio Casa Patas. The Festival’s Honorary Producers are Lynne and Joseph Horning and additional support is from Tivoli Partners Commercial LLC.

Edwin Aparicio (dancer/choreographer) has been described by critics as “the most amazing dancer seen in years” and having “hellfire footwork”. His choreography has been described as creating “beautiful, evocative imagery.” Mr. Aparicio is an internationally acclaimed dancer who has shared the stage with renowned artists such as Carmela Greco, Chuscales, and Silverio Heridia, among others. He studied flamenco in Spain with La Tati and Tomás de Madrid, and in 2001 made his flamenco debut at Casa Patas in Madrid. He performed with the Washington Opera at the Kennedy Center in *El Gato Montes* (1997) and *Don Giovanni* (2003). Mr. Aparicio toured the United States with Reynaldo Rincón’s Romeria Flamenca, was the featured artist in 2002 and 2005 at the Chicago Flamenco Festival, and appeared at the 2004 and 2005 Flamenco in the Sun Annual Festival in Miami with renowned artists Belen Maya, Pastora Galvan, Pedro Cortes, and Jose Luis Rodriguez. In 2005, he also performed with “Jóvenes Flamenco” as a soloist and a company member at the Centro Cultural de San Bals in Madrid, Spain, and was the choreographer for GALA’s premiere production at its new theater, *Yerma* by Federico García Lorca. Mr. Aparicio is the director and choreographer for several nationally acclaimed productions, including *Intimo* and *Entresueño*. Most recently, Mr. Aparicio joined the staff of the Washington School of Ballet and teaches flamenco classes to the rising dance stars.

Carmela Greco (dancer) daughter of the late flamenco legend José Greco, was born in Madrid, Spain and began her studies of dance at age 11. At a young age she was selected on merit to dance in Ballet Antología, precursor of the Ballet Nacional of Spain, and in 1980 she formed her own dance company and toured throughout France, Italy, the Middle East, and Africa. Shortly thereafter, Ms. Greco performed for the King of Spain and the Duke of Edinburgh, in addition to dancing for various *tablaos*, including those of Torres Bermejas, Café de Chinitas, and Corral de la Morería. In 1988 she joined the company of her father, José Greco, and made her debut in New York at the Joyce Theater. In the same year, Ms. Greco joined the faculty at the renowned dance academy Amor de Dios in Madrid and in the mid-90s she performed as a guest artist with the company of José Greco II in the Flamenco Festival in Albuquerque, Miami, and New York. In 1999, with her sister, Lola Greco, she presented the production *Raza* in the Bellas Artes Theatre in Madrid, subsequently touring Italy and participating in a renowned gala event in Naples. More recently, Ms. Greco toured in Japan for six months with her company, and shortly thereafter returned to Japan in the production *Climax*, together with Lola Greco and José Greco II, in honor of their father. She also danced in the Seville Biennial, appearing with top artists Rafaela Carrasco, Manuel Reyes, and Alejandro Granados, and returned to Italy to tour with the José Greco II Dance Company. Currently, Carmela Greco teaches classes and workshops throughout the world.

Abraham Carmona (guitarist) was born in Seville to a gypsy family with a strong tradition of traditional flamenco music. His grandfather, Manolo Carmona, was one of the first original flamenco guitarists to emerge in Los Palacios, a village near Seville. Carmona has introduced Shanghai, China to his gypsy heritage and travels throughout Asia combining a mix of flamenco, tango, jazz, bossa nova, rock, and various Asian influences for a dynamic performance in clubs, on television, and in film. A charismatic artist and a virtuoso in the traditions of his hometown, he has worked with various Asian and Spanish artists, including musicians Rafael Riqueni and the legendary Erhu soloist Ma Xiaohui. Most recently, Mr. Carmona has been teaching classes and workshops in flamenco at the JZ School of Music in Shanghai.

TICKETS for the special *INTIMO* benefit are \$500-\$150 for sponsors, \$50 general admission, and \$35 for students. For reservations or to become a sponsor, call 202-234-7174 or 800-494-TIXS (8497), or visit www.galatheatre.org. Parking is available at a reduced rate of \$4 at the Giant garage on Park Road, NW.

**FOR TICKETS CALL (202) 234-7174 OR (800) 494-TIXS
or visit www.galatheatre.org**

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