



## CURRICULUM VITAE

### IRENE RODRÍGUEZ

*"Ms. Rodríguez is an intense, exacting dancer"*  
The New York Times

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### PROFILE

- Director and founder of Compañía Irene Rodríguez (Professional Dance Company and international touring troupe)
- Principal Dancer of Spanish Dance and Flamenco at Ballet Español de Cuba, Compañía Irene Rodríguez and Guest Artist of the Ballet Nacional de Cuba.
- Artistic Director of the International Festival: *"La Huella de España"* (*"The Print of Spain"*) in Cuba
- Director of the Flamenco and Spanish Dance Program School at the Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival in 2019
- Master Dance Instructor and Choreographer of Classic Spanish Style, Flamenco and Contemporary dance (Teaches workshops, seminars and master classes worldwide)
- Choreographic Advisor and Rehearsal Instructor – Ballet Nacional de Cuba
- Choreographic Advisor of the Spanish repertory in Classic Ballet companies and schools
- Member –UNESCO International Dance Council
- Member –National Commission of the National Union of Writers and Artists of Cuba.

### EDUCATION

**2012 - Master's Degree (Theoretical Studies of Dance)** National Arts University – Havana, Cuba.  
Thesis title: *"Lo Hispánico en el arte de Alicia Alonso"* (*"The Hispanic influence in the Art of Alicia Alonso"*) resulting in numerous academic conferences on this topic.

**2011 - Graduate Certificate (History of Dance)** National Arts University - Havana, Cuba.

**2007 - Bachelor of Theater Arts Degree (Acting)** National Arts University –Havana, Cuba. "Gold Diplomate" in theater arts, with a major in acting; a distinction bestowed in recognition of numerous acting roles.

### ACADEMIC/TEACHING

- Choreographic Advisor and Rehearsal Instructor/Coach – Cuban National Ballet
- Director of the First Flamenco School of Andalucía in Cuba
- Founder and Director of the Professional Spanish Dance Academy and Vocational Dance School of Compañía Irene Rodríguez in Cuba
- Professor, Rehearsal Instructor and Choreographer–National Ballet School of Cuba
- Guest choreographer and teacher of David A. Straz Center for the Performing Arts

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## **HONOR/AWARDS**

2023- **Third Place, Pas de Deux category** with the choreography: “Tauromaquia” danced by the Next Generation ballet of the Straz Center for the Performing Arts. American Dance Competition

2022- **HONOR MEDAL OF USF** given by the President of the University Rhea F. Law

2022- **First Prize, Ensemble Category** at the **Youth American Grand Prix** with her choreography “España” danced by the Next Generation ballet of the Straz Center for the Performing Arts.

2022- **Outstanding Choreographer Award** at the **Youth American Grand Prix**.

2018- **Order “Isabel La Católica”**. Spain's highest civilian honor (**Cross category**). Said recognition is awarded in recognition of extraordinary conduct or civic virtue exemplified by Spanish peoples and foreigners, that benefit the Spanish Nation or those who contribute in a significant way to foster the friendship and cooperation of the Spanish Nation with the rest of the international community. Said title carries, moreover, the signatures of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and from the King of Spain himself.

2018- **Silver Medal** during the *II International Choreography Contest of the XXIV International meeting of Academies for Ballet teaching*, danced by her **Professional Spanish Dance Academy**.

2017- **IBEROAMERICAN MEDAL** given by the **HONORIS CAUSA FOUNDATION** of the University of Guadalajara, Mexico.

2017- **AUDIENCE Award** at the choreography competition: **IV CONCURSO DE DANZA DEL ATLÁNTICO NORTE "CODANZA" y "GRAND PRIX VLADIMIR MALAKHOV"** for her choreography: “*El mito*”.

2017- Award **UNEAC (National Commission of the National Union of Writers and Artists of Cuba)** in conjunction with the **IV CONCURSO DE DANZA DEL ATLÁNTICO NORTE "CODANZA" y "GRAND PRIX VLADIMIR MALAKHOV"** for the choreography piece: “*El mito*”.

2016- **Excellence Award** to the **BEST CHOREOGRAPHY WORK** (International Choreography Contest of the *XXII International meeting of Academies for Ballet teaching*). The awarding committee conferred this award to Irene Rodríguez for the plastic and artistic value and the interpretative force of her choreography “*Andalucía*”, danced by her Professional Dance Academy.

2015- **BEST CULTURAL EVENT 2014**, given by the Cultural Press to the best dance performance showed during the year in the city. This was given for her performance: “**Gala por el XV aniversario de Habana Radio**”

2013- Inclusion, once again, in the “**Honor Book**” of the **Gran Teatro de La Habana** for the significance of her performances in this theater.

2012- **First Prize – VIII Certamen Iberoamericano de Coreografía “Alicia Alonso” CIC’2012** awarded by the General Society of Authors and Publishers of Spain and the *Cuba National Ballet* for the choreography: “*El Crimen fue en Granada*”

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2011- Inscription in the **“Honor Book” of the Gran Teatro de La Habana** for numerous successful performances with the *Cuba National Ballet*.

2011- **Ramiro Guerra Award** from Asociación Hermanos Saíz given to the best interpretation of Folkloric dance by a woman.

2006- **Choreography Award** - National Commission of the National Union of Writers and Artists of Cuba for excellence in her artistic interpretation.

### **GUEST ARTIST AT GALAS**

- May 2023- GALA DANCE AGAINST CANCER. At Lincoln Center. NYC

- January 2022- STARS GALA. YAGP. Straz Center for the Performing Arts

### **INTERNATIONALS TOURS OF THE COMPAÑÍA IRENE RODRÍGUEZ**

-**June 2019** – The Compañía Irene Rodríguez offered seven performances at the **Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival** in **Becket, Massachusetts, United States of America**. In addition, Irene Rodríguez, was the **Cover Artist of 2019** for this festival, and the Director of the **Flamenco and Spanish Dance Program of the School of the Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival**.

-**January 2019** – The **Compañía Irene Rodríguez** offered five performances to great audience acclaim at the **Joyce Theater, New York, United States of America** (Performance name: *More than Flamenco*)

-**May 2018** – The **Compañía Irene Rodríguez** celebrated its debut at the **Kennedy Center for the performing arts** with the performance: *“Desde nuestras raíces: traditional Flamenco with Afro-Cuban flair”*.

-**August 2017** – The **Compañía Irene Rodríguez** offered six performances at the **Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival** in **Becket, Massachusetts, United States of America**. (Performance name: *“More than Flamenco”*)

-**August 2017** – The **Compañía Irene Rodríguez** offered a performance in the **Chautauqua Institution** in **New York, United States of America**. (Title: *“Cuban dance Flamenco”*)

-**May 2017**– **Irene Rodríguez** performed in the Gala *“Evening in Havana”* of WTTW and WFMT inspired by the documentary *“Weekend on Havana”* by Leo Eaton, where I was protagonist at the **WWCI Studios de Chicago, United States of America**.

-**May 2017** – The **Compañía Irene Rodríguez** offered two performances in the **Teatro Metroplitano of Medellín, Colombia**, as part of the Gala: *“Antología de la zarzuela”* performed by the orchestra of the **Estudio Polifónico de Medellín**.

-**May 2016** – The **Compañía Irene Rodríguez** offered 5 performances with a greatly appreciative audience and review from the **New York Times**, at the **Joyce Theater in New York, United States of America** (Performance name: *Lights and Shadows*)

-**November 2015** – Performance of the **Compañía Irene Rodríguez** at the **National theater of Santo Domingo, República Dominicana**, at the invitation of the Santo Domingo Philharmonic

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Orchestra directed by Carlos Andrés Mejías and the first dancers of the Cuban National Ballet. (Performance name: "Spanish Symphony: from Classic to Flamenco")

**-October 2015** – Performance of the **Compañía Irene Rodríguez** at the **Moore Theater** in **Seattle, Washington, United States of America** (Performance name: "*Habana-Flamenca*")

**-August 2014** – Tour of by the principal dancers of the **Compañía Irene Rodríguez** for different **California** cities; performing in the **Montalvo Arts Center** in Saratoga and at the MOLAA (Museum of Latin American Art) in Los Angeles, **United States of America**.

### **INTERNATIONAL MASTER CLASSES AND SUMMER INTENSIVES BY IRENE RODRÍGUEZ:**

- ✓ Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival. Massachusetts, US. 2022
- ✓ USF, Dance Career and Theater Career. Tampa, US. 2022
- ✓ Shake the Ground. Dance Competition, Orlando, US. 2022
- ✓ The Juilliard School. NYC, US. 2021
- ✓ Kansas City Ballet School, Kansas City, US. 2021
- ✓ David A. Straz, Jr. Center for the Performing Arts. Tampa, US. 2021-2022-2023
- ✓ Bruce Klay's Dance Studio. Tampa, US. 2021-2022
- ✓ Florida School for dance Education. West Palm Beach, US. 2021
- ✓ Jacqueline Ballet School. Utah, US. 2021
- ✓ HZ Ballet Classique. Vancouver. Canada. 2021
- ✓ Southwest High School. California, US. 2020/2021
- ✓ Jeté Dance Academy. California, US. 2020/2021
- ✓ Carola Zetuche, for the Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival. NYC, US. 2019
- ✓ Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival. Massachusetts, US 2019
- ✓ Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival. Massachusetts. US 2017
- ✓ Washington Contemporary Ballet. Tacoma, US. 2015
- ✓ Espacio Flamenco. Seattle, US. 2015
- ✓ San José Ballet. San José, California, US. 2014
- ✓ Montalvo Arts Center. Saratoga, California, US. 2014
- ✓ Academia ProArte. Querétaro, México. 2003-2009

### **CONFERENCES**

**-“Irene Rodríguez: su más reciente proyección coreográfica”** at the **FIU Cuban Research Institute** (Florida International University, January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020)

- **“Una ventana a la Educación patrimonial de la danza”**. Master class taught by Irene Rodríguez for the **Taller Internacional sobre Patrimonio Histórico-Documental de la Música en Hispanoamérica**. (*Sala Fernando Ortiz* of the University: *Colegio San Gerónimo de La Habana*. April 26th, 2018)

- **“Lo hispánico en el arte de Alicia Alonso”** (“The Hispanic Influence in the Arte of Alicia Alonso”) Taught in:

- ✓ XXIV International meeting of Academies for Ballet teaching. (April, 2018)
- ✓ Project *Rutas y Andares* organized by the Oficina del Historiador de la Ciudad, at the Centro Hispanoamericano de Cultura, La Habana, Cuba (August, 2015)
- ✓ *West Valley College* of California, US. (August, 2014)

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✓ XIV International Festival “*La Huella de España*” at the “Dance Museum”, La Habana, Cuba (May, 2012)

- **Lecture in: “Desayuno Martiano”**. José Martí Scholarship Committee. (Florida International University, January 28th, 2016)

- **“The Spanish Dance Influence in Cuba,”** at the FIU Cuban Research Institute (Florida International University, October 20th, 2015)

- **“El flamenco puro y su fusión con otros géneros danzarios”** (“The pure flamenco and its fusion with other Dance Styles”) given at the Sociedad Catalana of Cuba (July 16th, 2013)

### **COMMISSIONED CHOREOGRAPHIES:**

2021- **“Amor Brujo”**. Piece in an Act for the Kansas City Ballet commissioned by the Midwest Trust Center and premiered at Johnson County Community College, Overland Park, Kansas City.

2020- **“Following my dreams”**. By the Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival for the virtual Event DANCE WE MUST

2020- **“Las Cinco Lunas de Lorca”**. By Los Angeles Opera recorded at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion Theater at the Music Center LA.

2020- **“Towards your shore”**. By The Laguna Dance Festival for the virtual Laguna Dance Winter Festival 2020

2019- **“El grito”**. By the Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival for season 2019

2017- **“La Pena negra”**. By the Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival for season 2017

### **CREATIVE RESIDENCY**

-2022- INSIDE THE PILLOW LAB RESIDENCY. “No turning back” and “My roots” was created in part during a Residency at the Pillow Lab at Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival Artistic residency and premiered at the Opening Gala of the 90 anniversary of Jacobs Pillow Dance Festival.

-2014- ART RESIDENCY at Montalvo Art Center in California, Choreography works premiered at the Carriage house of the Montalvo Art Center.

### **CAREER NARRATIVE**

Born in the City of Havana, Cuba, I began my studies of Spanish Dances and Flamenco at the Spanish Cultural Society, “Andalucian Center of Havana”. After a few months I was incorporated ex-officio as an “exceptional case” to study directly with the professional company: *Spanish Ballet of Cuba*, since despite being a young child, my outstanding talent was noted and recognized. In 1993 I started studying at the *National Spanish Dance Academy* being graduated after five years of study as a professional Spanish and Flamenco Dancer and Teacher in 1999. My first protagonist roles were performed during my period as a student at the Academy. Following my graduation as a ballerina, I immediately became a member of the *Spanish Ballet of Cuba* being the First Dancer, Principal Professor, Rehearsal Instructor and Choreographer of the company until 2011. Here I interpreted and performed with great success, on repeated occasions, all of the roles in all the works and performances presented by the Company. These were showcased in the principal theatres of the country and in the most notable cultural events nationally and internationally. There, after several evaluations I became Artistic Director, Specialized Dance Professor, and First level Choreographer.

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As part of my professional artistic I have participated in workshops, courses and master classes from the most relevant choreographers and Spanish Dancers in Cuba, Spain and Mexico and I have danced as First Dancer in the most prestigious theaters of Barcelona and Granada, Spain; Andorra, Colombia, Guatemala and Mexico. In Mexico, I participated in several editions of the “Festival Ibérica Contemporánea” in Querétaro, Mexico where I shared the stage with artist with global reputations like Eva Yerbabuena, Manolo Marín, Cristóbal Reyes, María Juncal, el Farru, Joaquin Grilo, Manuel Segovia, La China, among others. Over several years, I have served as a professor in the summer programs at PROART Academy in Querétaro, México where I have also served as an artistic juror. In July of 2009 I conducted a tour through Mexico accompanied by the Spanish flamenco dancer María Juncal with the show: “Tercera Llamada”.

In 2010 I was invited to participate and perform in the festival “Granada. Cuna del Flamenco” in Granada, Spain.

I have been honored to have been invited on several occasions by the Prima Ballerina Assoluta Alicia Alonso to join soloists from the *Cuban National Ballet* in interpreting the piece: “Preciosa y el Aire”, Alonso’s choreography, which was included in in major events like the *Gala de Clausura of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Cuban Ballet International Festival* and the *Gala for the 80th Anniversary of the artistic debut of Alicia Alonso*. At the same time, I assumed the role of soloist in the piece choreographed by Eduardo Blanco “Aires de Tradición” with the Ballet Nacional de Cuba in 2011.

**In January of 2012 I started my own company: Compañía Irene Rodríguez** receiving superlative critiques by the New York Times, between others; and numerable accolades from the most discerning critics specialized in dance from the Company’s debut.

Since 2012, by special request of the Prima Ballerina Assoluta Alicia Alonso, I assumed the post of Artistic Director of the festival “*La Huella de España*”, an annual event in Cuba.

Currently I’m based in Tampa, FL.

### **TEACHER AND CHOREOGRAPHER:**

With more than 20 years of experience, I have been a Teacher, Rehearsal and Choreographer of Spanish Dance and Flamenco Style for prestigious dance institutions, including the National Ballet of Cuba, the National School of Ballet and the National School of Spanish Dance of Cuba.

I have also directed the Flamenco and Spanish Dance Program at the world-renowned Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival School in the United States and have taught numerous Master Classes internationally at renowned Universities and dance centers such as the Juilliard School, Florida International University (FIU). , University of South Florida (USF), West Valley College, University of the Arts of Cuba; among others.

In 2013 in Cuba, I created my own Professional Academy of Spanish and Flamenco Dance and a Vocational Dance School of direction, teaching and choreography for the Academy including the organization of several Summer Programs and Master Classes. Due to the academic results, the Academy was selected to be the representative of the Escuela de Flamenco de Andalucía in Cuba, which it directed for several years.

As a choreographer I have won several international awards such as the First Prize in the VIII Ibero-American Choreography Contest CIC' 2012; among others, having many works commissioned by Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival and the Los Angeles Opera; among others. These works have been critically acclaimed and have received significant and highly positive international reviews from publications such as the New York Times; among other.

My work as a choreographer includes multiple titles performed by the Kansas City Ballet, the Spanish Ballet of Cuba, the Irene Rodríguez Company, the Next Generation Ballet, the National Academy of Spanish Dance, the National School of Ballet of Cuba, the Professional Academy of Dances Españolas and the National Company of Lyric Art of Cuba; among others.

### **OTHERS ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS/RECOGNITIONS**

2019- **Gold Medal** given by the **Federation of Asturias Societies of Cuba**

2019- **Recognition** given by the **Federation of Asturias Societies of Cuba** for constancy in the preservation of the cultural diversity of Spain and the defense of our Cuban and Spanish identity.

2017- Recognition **Habana del Centro** given by **Dirección Municipal de Cultura de Centro Habana**.

2016- Special Recognition 60th Anniversary of the **Federation of Spanish Societies of Cuba** of the **Compañía Irene Rodríguez** for its support in developing of the Spanish Dance in Cuba.

2015- A dress used by Irene Rodríguez is placed at the **Díaz Ayala Collection of Cuban and Latin America Popular Music at the FIU (Florida International University)**. This piece was given to Verónica González, **MLIS (Instructor Librarian, Sound and Image Resources Department)** and will be there permanently in this institution.

2015- Recognition of the **Federation of Galicia's Societies of Cuba** to Irene Rodríguez for her excellent work as artistic director of the XXVI Festival "*La Huella de España*".

2015- Recognition by the **Consejo Nacional de las Artes Escénicas** to the Compañía Irene Rodríguez for its tireless work.

2014- **Recognition from the California Assembly Speaker Emeritus** John A. Pérez: "*On behalf of the 53<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District and the California State Legislature, I want to commend you for sharing a unique cultural experience in Southern California by hosting special live Spanish Cuban Dance performance at the Museum of Latin American Art. May your passion continue to enrich your audience's lives and bridge the cultural divide through the art. I wish you the best in your future endeavors and continued success*".

2013- **Asociación Hermanos Saíz** – Recognition for achievements of the Compañía Irene Rodríguez in that year.

2013- **Miguel de Cervantes y Saavedra** – Recipient of the highest award given by Federation of Spanish Societies of Cuba for her ample trajectory as a distinguished figure in Spanish dance. "*Her art and her work as an educator have converted her into the Ambassador of Spanish culture in our country and she has been a fervent collaborator with the Spanish Societies of Cuba*".