



**Orphée**  
**Raul Valdés**



Dominican dancer and choreographer. Born in Santo Domingo, he started his dancing studies with the teachers Juan Fidel Gautreaux and Marilyn Gallardo among others. In Havana, he achieved the middle degree at the "Escuela Nacional de Danza" and joined simultaneously the Cuballet under the direction of Laura Alonzo.

Later on, upon finishing Professor Michael Vernon's summer course in the city of New York at the Eglevsky Ballet, he was awarded a scholarship for the Dance Theatre of Harlem.

From 1991 until 1994 he danced with Danzahoy, the modern company of the Teresa Carreño Theatre in Caracas, directed by Adriana Urdaneta, performing in many cities around America and Europe. He was in charge of the artistic direction for the 2nd Choreographic Workshop tour of Danzahoy. During this period, he was as well a permanent guest dancer at the Contemporary Ballet of Caracas, directed by María Eugenia Barrios.

In 1995 he joined the Contemporary Ballet of the San Martín Theatre under the direction of **Óscar Araiz** in Buenos Aires (Argentina) where he worked together with the choreographer Ana María Steckelman to produce 'La tarde cae sobre una mesa' and with the choreographer **Antonio Gomes** in the staging of 'Rebounds'.

Later on he was invited to partner Eleonora Cassano in the show 'La Cassano en el Maipo'.

In 1997 he joined the Staatstheater Braunschweig (Germany) under the direction of Pierre Wyss where he undertook several roles, specially created for him by Wyss, in productions such as 'Ein Sommernachtstraum', 'Cinderella' and 'Leonardo', among others. During this time he worked on a regular basis with guest choreographers like: Ben Iida, Qu Ping, Jean Renshaw and again with Antonio Gomes, who created for him 'Addendum', 'Tangoneon' and the role of the Evangelist in 'Johannespassion'.

In 1999 his choreography 'Diada' received the Dom Perignon Award of the First Choreography Competition, hosted by the Hamburg Ballet under the direction of John Neumaier.

The coming year his 2<sup>nd</sup> choreography "Antinomia" made it to the finals of the 15<sup>th</sup> choreographic competition of Hannover. Following that, he was commissioned by the Ballett des Staatstheaters Braunschweig for choreographing "Strategies" and by Ballett des Staatstheaters Karlsruhe for creating "In another room". 'Diada' was later included in the repertoire of both the Braunschweig and the Karlsruhe companies.

In 2001 he undertakes the role of "El Duende" in the tango- opera 'María de Buenos Aires', (choreography and direction by Antonio Gomes) performed by the Bern Ballet, where he worked as an actor and as a dancer.

He choreographed in 2002 in collaboration with Antonio Gomes "The X Commandments" for the Ballet Nacional Dominicano and in 2005 he created "Cartas/E-mail" as a guest choreographer for the production Cartas 2.

From 2002 until 2005 he joined the cast of Disney's musical 'The Lion King' in Hamburg. After that he toured with "The Best of Musicals", the Gala Tour of the Stage Entertainment GmbH, in 2006.

"Ich Wüschte ich", his latest choreographic work, was performed at the Sprechwerk Theater in Hamburg as a part of the Into project in April 2007. Since then he's working very actively as a teacher in different dance schools in Hamburg, like the Joop Van den Ende Academy, the Hamburg school of Entertainment, the Contemporary Dance School of Hamburg and the On stage School.