

Alfred University Miller Dance Residency Program concludes with Cuban Stories

3/10/04

ALFRED, NY -- Internationally renowned artists Marianela Boan and Alejandro Aguilar will present Cuban Stories, the final performance in the 2003-2004 Marlin and Ginger Miller Dance Residency Series at 8 p.m. March 19 in the C.D. Smith Theater at the Miller Performing Arts Center on the Alfred University campus. The evening of dance, story and video is open to the public, free of charge. Boan will present two solos, "Fast Food," an awarding-winning, short and powerful solo, already shown in more than 10 countries, in which the Cuban tragedy is synthesized with the last minutes of Beethoven Symphony, and "Lifting # 1," a performance that cross-pollinates a world at war and Ocean Drive magazine drivel, with the fear of aging. In this context the piece addresses a spiritual void while alluding to the rigors of plastic surgery in Chaplin-esque physical language. Aguilar, one of the premier narrators in the 1990's in Cuba, will be presenting a bilingual story about a despairing youth amid a huge crisis in a country with no hopes. Boan is an internationally recognized avant-garde Cuban choreographer. In 1988 she founded DanzAbierta, and is its general director, choreographer and dancer. She has performed her work all over the world, and has created pieces for theater, cinema and dance companies. In the U.S., Boan has performed as a soloist and taught as well for actors, performers and visual artists at NYU's Tisch College, Barnard College, American Dance Festival, Bates Dance Festival, Los Angeles FITLA and other venues. Aguilar is rapidly acquiring an audience in the United States for his authentic writing about contemporary Cuba. He is the author of Landscape of Clay, Laying Down Figures and the novels The Disobedience, Reasons to call Sandra and Casa de cambio. The performance will end with a video presentation of DanzAbierta, Boan's dance company in Cuba and a question/answer session. Both Cuban artists will be teaching a variety of classes on campus from March 15 - March 23rd. A gift from Trustee Marlin Miller '54 and Ginger Miller created the residency program that annually brings acclaimed dancers to the Alfred University campus for classes and performances. Additional information may be obtained by contacting D. Chase Angier, assistant professor of dance in AU's Division of Performing Arts, at angierc@alfred.edu or by calling the Division of Performing Arts at 607 871 2562.