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BELOVED BALLERINA'S FINAL PERFORMANCES WITH MCB

MIAMI BEACH, FL – (April 13, 2015) – Beloved ballerina **Mary Carmen Catoya's** performance in George Balanchine's *Raymonda Variations*, scheduled for April 19, 2015 at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts in Fort Lauderdale, will mark the conclusion of her distinguished sixteen-year tenure with Miami City Ballet.

Following her departure from MCB at the end of this season, Ms. Catoya will continue her career as an acclaimed ballerina, appearing as a guest artist both nationally and internationally.

Catoya, a principal dancer at the National Ballet of Caracas in Venezuela, was hired in 1999 by MCB's Founding Artistic Director Edward Villella. Over the next sixteen years, she became a leading member of the troupe, known for her brilliant bravura technical abilities, speed, and onstage charisma.

When MCB opened its inaugural season at Miami's Adrienne Arsht Center with a company premiere of the 19th-century classic *Don Quixote*, Catoya danced the famous, and fiercely difficult, female lead of Kitri. She went on to dance the lead roles in some of the most technically challenging roles in MCB's repertory, including Balanchine's *Ballet Imperial*, *Ballo della Regina*, *Theme and Variations*, *Symphony in C*, and *Tschaikovsky Pas de Deux*, as well as the coveted title roles in *Coppélia* and *Giselle*.

In its review of MCB's recent appearance at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa, the dance critic for the Ottawa Citizen wrote "Mary Carmen Catoya and Renato Penteadó made the piece's [*Tschaikovsky Pas de Deux*] formidable challenges seem effortless, attacking everything with Balanchine's love for speed and daring." Writing about her performance in Balanchine's *Divertimento No. 15*, the New York Times' chief dance critic **Alastair Macaulay** said, "...the crisp elegance of her head positions and upper body above the rapid coloratura of her footwork gave true delight."

Speaking of Mary Carmen's final performances, MCB Artistic Director **Lourdes Lopez** said, "This is a bittersweet moment for both Mary Carmen and Miami City Ballet. For sixteen years, as a principal dancer, Mary Carmen has thrilled, entertained, and enchanted not only our South Florida audiences, but also our audiences all over the U.S. and abroad. She will now share her artistry with new audiences. But wherever she goes, she will always be part of the MCB family and occupy a place close to our collective heart."

About Miami City Ballet:

Hailed by *The New York Times* as “one of America’s most beloved dance companies,” Miami City Ballet is led by Artistic Director Lourdes Lopez. The Company has 50 dancers and a repertoire of nearly 100 ballets. The Company performs for 120,000 patrons annually during its South Florida home season in Miami, Fort Lauderdale, West Palm Beach and Naples, and tours to top theaters domestically and internationally. Among the Company’s notable achievements have been critically acclaimed seasons in Paris and New York City and the nationally televised PBS THIRTEEN special: *Great Performances - Dance In America: Miami City Ballet Dances Balanchine and Tharp*.

Miami City Ballet School is the official school of Miami City Ballet, an elite pre-professional ballet training academy with a vibrant community division serving 1,500 students and granting \$500,000 in scholarships annually.

Miami City Ballet is headquartered in Miami Beach, Florida at the Ophelia & Juan Js. Roca Center, a facility designed by renowned architectural firm Arquitectonica.

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