

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Washington Ballet Appoints Zoica Tovar as School Director of The Washington School of Ballet

Washington, D.C. — The Washington Ballet (TWB) is pleased to announce that **Zoica Tovar** has been appointed **School Director of The Washington School of Ballet (TWSB)**, one of the region's most respected institutions for classical ballet training. She assumed the role immediately.

A former principal dancer and internationally recognized educator, Tovar brings more than 30 years of experience across multiple ballet traditions. Trained at the Cuban Ballet School of Havana, she danced principal roles with Ballet Clásico de la Habana, Orlando Ballet, and BalletMet, performing iconic works ranging from *Swan Lake* and *Don Quixote* to choreography by Balanchine and Sharp. Her teaching and leadership career spans the U.S., Brazil, and Europe, including roles developing award-winning youth ensembles and pre-professional programs.

Tovar currently serves on the faculty of The Washington School of Ballet, where she has supported youth programming and student development. Her work is marked by a commitment to artistic rigor, student-centered mentorship, and the creation of inclusive, inspiring training environments.

"Zoica brings a remarkable blend of technical excellence, deep knowledge of the craft, and most importantly is the care for young dancers," said Edwaard Liang, Artistic Director of The Washington Ballet. "Her leadership will strengthen our training pathways and nurture the next generation of artists who will shape the future of dance."

As School Director, Tovar will oversee all divisions across both TWSB campuses, leading curriculum, faculty collaboration, student experience, and programming. She will also help expand opportunities for community access and increase alignment between the school and the company.

"I am honored to lead The Washington School of Ballet," said Tovar. "My goal is to cultivate an environment where technique and artistry grow together, and where every dancer at every level can build confidence, curiosity, and a strong foundation."

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EDWAARD LIANG, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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The Washington School of Ballet trains more than 3,000 students annually through its creative dance, pre-ballet, lower, upper, trainee, and adult programs, along with summer intensives and community engagement initiatives.

For more information, visit www.washingtonballet.org.

Please send media inquiries to Erica Bondarev Rapach, Director of Marketing & Communications, ebondarevrach@washingtonballet.org or 202.274.4507.

ABOUT THE WASHINGTON BALLET

The Washington Ballet (TWB) was founded as The Washington School of Ballet in 1944 and incorporated as a professional company in 1976 to serve a three-part mission: ensuring excellence in its professional performance company; growing the next generation of dancers through its school, professional training programs, and Studio Company; and serving the community in which it resides through community engagement programs propel TWB to a more prominent place within the nation's capital and beyond

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