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**HOSTOS CENTER PRESENTS FULL CIRCLE IN THE  
NEW YORK PREMIERE OF *OUTSIDE THE BACHX***

**The World of Hip-hop Collides with the Music of J.S. Bach and Ballet**

(April 14, 2015) After more than seven years in development, Full Circle Productions, one of New York's leading Hip-hop dance companies, gives the New York premiere of "Outside the Bachx" on Friday, May 1, 7:30 p.m., in the Repertory Theater at the Hostos Center for the Arts and Culture.

Combining Hip-hop dance and spoken word, along with ballet and the music of J.S. Bach and other classical composers, the work was written and choreographed by Full Circle founders Gabriel "Kwikstep" Dionisio and Ana "Rokafella" Garcia and co-commissioned by the Kennedy Center, where it was given its world premiere in February. The New York debut of "Outside the Bachx" is part of the CUNY Dance Initiative, a new residency program providing rehearsal space and support for performances to 26 New York City choreographers and dance companies at 11 City University of New York campuses.

In addition to Dionisio and Garcia, the cast for "Outside of the Bachx" includes Cristina Altamura, who has appeared as soloist with the Bucharest Philharmonic, as Guest Concert Pianist; the Boston-based street artist Gene Shinozaki as Guest Beatboxer; Gabriel "Emphasis" Alvarez as B-boy; Odyllie "B-girl Matis" Beder as Ballerina, B-girl, and Actress; John Gutierrez as Dancer, Actor, and Project Assistant; Angela "Angyil" McNeal as Ballerina and Experimental Styles/Popper; and John "Flonetik" Vinuya as B-boy and Actor. Tickets for "Outside the Bachx" are \$15 (\$7 for students and under 18) and can be purchased by phone by calling (718) 518-4455, online at [www.hostoscenter.org](http://www.hostoscenter.org), and through the Hostos Center Box Office, 450 Grand Concourse, in the Bronx, Monday through Friday, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., and two hours prior to performance.

The Bronx-based Full Circle was founded in 1992 and established as a non-profit in 1996. In addition to previous performances at the Kennedy Center and the Hostos Center, Full Circle has

appeared at the Library of Congress, Lincoln Center and the New Victory Theater and has had residencies at MIT, the Schomburg Center, the Apollo Theater, and at the City Parks Foundation. Full Circle's experimentation fusing Hip-hop and Bach date back to when Garcia and Altemura reconnected at their high school reunion. Their collaborative debut at the 2007 Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival was followed by a performance at New York's Central Park SummerStage. Selections from the early collaborations are included in "Outside of the Bachx." During the developmental stage, "Outside of the Bachx" has been work-shopped at the Bronx Music Heritage Center, Bronx Academy of Arts and Dance, and Casita Maria Center for Arts and Education along with other institutions. The final version presents a captivating juxtaposition between the classic Old World of J.S. Bach and other composers including Rachmaninoff, classic Hip Hop styles, sounds, samples, and dance forms including Breaking (Breakdance), classic Ballet, Clas-sick Beat box, and a DJ.

**Rokafella (Ana García)** began dancing at the age of 16, performing Hip-hop, Salsa, House and African dance, and has worked with Will Smith, Mariah Carey, and LL Cool J. She was invited to choreograph "Hamlet" for the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in 2010. García is currently an Adjunct Professor at the Eugene Lang Liberal Arts College at New School University and is a member of the Bessie NYC Dance and Performance Awards Selection Committee. She directed the 2009 documentary "All The Ladies Say" about the lifestyle of Bgirls—female break-dancers.

**Kwikstep (Gabriel Dionisio)** is an internationally known dancer, instructor, and Bessie-winning choreographer in addition to his work as a DJ, Poet, and actor. He began dancing at the age of 8 and worked his way up from parties to clubs to touring and then to theater. Dionisio was featured in the "I Love NY" commercial, the seminal film "Brown Sugar," and KRS One's classic "Step into a World" music video. As a DJ, Dionisio opened for Nile Rodgers and CHIC at the Lincoln Center Out of Doors Festival. He produces and curates "Behind the Groove," a monthly international dance event — now in its fifth year at NYC's famous Le Poisson Rouge. His workshops are filled to capacity and his signature head spins cap off a life-long journey dedicated to dance.

A graduate of the Mannes College of Music, pianist **Cristina Altamura** made her young artist debut at the age of 19 performing Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* with the Inner Cities Chamber Orchestra at Carnegie Hall. She made her European debut in 1998 with the Bucharest Philharmonic in Romania, which led to a year-long residency with the State Philharmonic of Bacau. She has since appeared in major concert halls and festivals in Europe, the Middle East, Canada, the Caribbean, and the U.S. In addition to her fusion work with Hip-hop, Altamura has also performed and recorded Latin music with a wide variety of percussionists.

Full Circle's residency at Hostos Community College is a part of the CUNY Dance Initiative, supported by The New York Community Trust, with additional funding from the Mertz Gilmore Foundation. For more information about the CUNY Dance Initiative, log onto [www.cuny.edu/danceinitiative](http://www.cuny.edu/danceinitiative)

Hostos Center events are sponsored by the Hostos Community College Foundation with public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, the New York State Council on the Arts, the Office of New York City Councilwoman María del Carmen Arroyo, the Office for New York State Assemblyman José Rivera, and the Office of New York State Assemblywoman Carmen Arroyo.

Full Circle's "Outside the Bachx" project receives support from the Jerome Foundation and the Bronx Council on the Arts.

**What:** Full Circle's "Outside the Bachx"

**When:** Friday, May 1 at 7:30 p.m. (Doors Open at 7:00 p.m.)

**Where:** Repertory Theater, The Hostos Center for the Arts & Culture  
Hostos Community College, 450 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY 10451

**Tickets:** Reserved Seating \$15 / Students and Under 18: \$7

**Box Office:** 718-518-4455 Schedule: Monday through Friday, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.,  
& 2 hours prior to performance.

**Website:** [www.hostoscenter.org](http://www.hostoscenter.org)

**Subway/Bus:** IRT Trains 2, 4, 5 and Buses Bx1, Bx2, Bx19  
to 149<sup>th</sup> Street and Grand Concourse

#### **About the Hostos Center for the Arts & Culture:**

The Hostos Center for the Arts & Culture consists of a museum-grade art gallery, a 367-seat Repertory Theater, and a 900-seat Main Theater, presenting artists of national and international renown. It is easily accessible from Manhattan, Queens and New Jersey and is a mere 15 minutes by subway from midtown Manhattan. Over the years, the Center has presented and exhibited such artists as Rubén Blades, Dizzy Gillespie, Eddie Palmieri, Dance Theatre of Harlem, Ballets de San Juan, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, Ballet Hispánico, Jennifer Mueller/The Works, Antonio Martorell, Faith Ringold, Celia Cruz, Marc Anthony, Tito Puente and Lucecita Benítez.

#### **About Hostos Community College**

Eugenio María de Hostos Community College is an educational agent for change that has been transforming and improving the quality of life in the South Bronx and neighboring communities since 1968. It serves as a gateway to intellectual growth and socioeconomic mobility, as well as a point of departure for lifelong learning, success in professional careers, and transfer to advanced

higher education programs. The College's unique "Student Success Coaching Unit" provides students with individualized guidance and exemplifies its emphasis on student support services. Hostos offers 29 associate degree programs and five certificate programs that facilitate easy transfer to CUNY's four-year colleges or baccalaureate studies at other institutions. The College has an award-winning Division of Continuing Education & Workforce Development that offers professional development courses and certificate-bearing workforce training programs. Hostos is part of The City University of New York (CUNY), the nation's leading urban public university, which serves more than 480,000 students at 24 colleges.

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