

AURORA REYES, Director, Founder/Flamenco Latino is a highly esteemed dancer, choreographer and teacher in both the Flamenco communities of Spain and New York. Her abilities as both a dancer and singer, and willingness to experiment in collaboration with Basilio Georges has produced new forms of heelwork which authentically replicate the rhythms played in Latin music by the congas, bongos and timbales. Most of the current repertoire of Flamenco Latino has been choreographed by Ms. Reyes. Aurora has been dancing flamenco for 38 years and was drawn to flamenco through her Spanish descent, which also inspired her to sing flamenco. She initially studied in Spain with Mercedes and Albano, La Tati, Ciro, Maria Magdalena, and Manolo Marin, and began working in NY with Luis Vargas, Diego Castellon and Paco Montes in the old 14th St. Spanish club district. After studying with Estrella Moreno, she worked with her at the Chateau Madrid, and later toured with Jose Molina Bailes Españoles. During 1985-1986, La Tati facilitated a position for her at La Corral de la Pacheca in Madrid. Upon her return to NY, she worked in the companies of Carlota Santana and Andrea del Conte.

Long fascinated by Cuban dance, she has studied and taught Cuban Mambo and for the past 10 years, researching to find ways to blend flamenco and Cuban dance material. Her choreography for Flamenco Latino's 1997-99 Seasons at Pace University Theater and at the Duke on 42nd Street in 2002, made use of a mambo partnering moves in combination with flamenco technique to create a unique New York style of dance. She has enjoyed a long collaborative relationship with Angel Gil Orrios, Director at Thalia Theatre since she danced in his 1988 production of *El Deseo Cogido por el Rabo*, by Pablo Picasso. They also produced innovative work for such projects as "Carmen" for the Knoxville Opera Company subsequent Picasso theater works, *Las Cuatro Niñitas* and *FlamenConde de Orgaz* at Thalia Spanish Theatre. As a choreographer she was hired for five seasons by Andrea Del Conte Danza España to set dances premiered at Dance Theater Workshop in Manhattan and the Thalia Theater in Sunnyside, Queens. Aurora offers group and private classes in at Flamenco Latino Studio Theater. She has taught Salsa residencies through Young Audiences and Community Works, and was an adjunct instructor in World Dance/Latin Styles at Stonybrook University (1995-2002).