

**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 40+ 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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 Pachea 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 studied and taught Cuban Mambo 1992-2002, 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 42<sup>nd</sup> 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 and 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 has created new original works for Queensboro Dance Festival (QDF) for 6 years 2018 to 2023, and will be touring a 7<sup>th</sup> time with *Bulerias Blastoff* in the 2024 summer tour. All of Flamenco Latino's work for QDF has included original music for the dance composed and recorded by Basilio Georges. Pieces include: *Sevillanas AfroCubanas*, 2018; *Tangos/Bulerias* 2019; *Hand me Down my Walking Cane*, World Premiere 2020 *Pena/Alegria*, (World Premiere) 2021, *The Fandango Continuum* (World Premiere) 2022; *We Ain't Doin Nothin New* 2023.

Aurora offered group and private classes at Flamenco Latino Studio Theater 2006-2016. She taught Salsa residencies through Young Audiences and Community Works 2002-2012, and was an adjunct instructor in World Dance/Latin Styles at Stonybrook University 1995-2002. She currently teaches flamenco group classes at Creative Cultural Center/St Veronica Catholic Church in West Village in NYC 2016 to present and at 2ndStory Pilates & Yoga Studio in Jackson Hts, 2021-present. She teaches flamenco to Seniors at South Asian Council for Social Services (SACSS) in Flushing as part of SU-CASA program in 2019 and has been directly hired by SACSS for once a month flamenco classes 2023 to present.