



DANCE MONKS Ook'ot Festival Internacional de Danza

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DANCE MONKS Ook'ot International Dance Festival January 6-14, 2020

The co-founding directors of the internationally traveled Bay Area based company, DANCE MONKS, are curating a dance festival on more than 2,000 acres of lush jungle at the hacienda of Kankabal- only 1.5 hours from Merida International Airport in Mexico. Ook'ot offers a rigorous training for dedicated students and professionals within a supportive community of international artists. This year, the directors Rodrigo Esteva (Bay Area/Mexico City) and Mirah Moriarty (SF Bay Area) will teach as part of the intensive alongside the renowned Mijail Rojas (Cuba), Erika Suarez (Mexico), Dr. Yanique Hume (Jamaica). This is an opportunity for dedicated dancers from around the world to be immersed in an enriching cultural experience in an ancient village while learning from thought-provoking artists.

PRESS PHOTOS: Download hi-res images here: <http://www.dancemonks.com>

The Curators:

Rodrigo Esteva (Mexico City/ SF Bay Area) and Mirah Moriarty (SF Bay Area) are the co- founding directors of DANCE MONKS <http://www.dancemonks.com>, based in the San Francisco Bay area and established in 1999 in Mexico. Rodrigo and Mirah have taught and performed internationally in some of the most prestigious festivals and theaters of the United States and Mexico as well as in Peru, Canada and Europe, including at The Joyce Theater (NY), The Kennedy Center (DC), Flynn Center for the Performing Arts (VT), ODC (SF), Studio 303 (Montreal), Universidad IberoAmericana (Mexico), FAEL (Lima, Peru), among numerous others.

The venue: Hacienda Kankabal, 1.5 hours from Merida, Mexico.

BIOS OF TEACHERS for 2020



RODRIGO ESTEVA (MX) and MIRAH KELLC MORIARTY (US)

Co-founding Directors of DANCE MONKS and Founders of Festival

> [View Curriculum Vitae here](#)

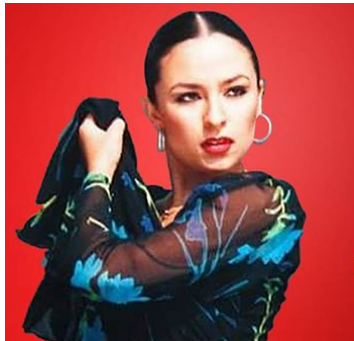
Rodrigo and Mirah are the co-founding directors of DANCE MONKS (Bay Area/Yucatán) founded in the year 1999 while living in the mountains of

Xalapa, Mexico. Rodrigo and Mirah have taught and performed internationally over the last 20 years as a duet and extensively with world renowned companies including as members of the physically integrated [AXIS Dance Company](#) (2007-08, Oakland) and [Pearson Widrig Dance Theater Company](#) (1994-2001, NYC) in major festivals, universities and venues throughout the United States and Mexico as well as in Canada, Peru and Europe, including at: Saint Marks Church (NY), PS122 (NY), the University of Veracruz in Xalapa (Mexico), The Joyce Theater (NY), The Kennedy Center (DC), The Lincoln Center Out-of-Doors Festival (NY), Bates Dance Festival (ME), Middlebury College (VT), Bard College (NY), IberoAmericana University of Mexico City, FAEL (Festival de Artes Escenicas) of Lima, among many others. Mirah holds a Masters of Fine Arts (MFA) in Dance (2014) from Hollins University in conjunction with the William Forsythe of Germany. She also studied dance formally at the School for New Dance Development (SNDD/EDDC) of Amsterdam, Oberlin College (OH) and received her Bachelors of Arts (B.A.) at Goddard College (VT) with a focus in Interdisciplinary Arts. She began her training as an elite gymnast and grew up performing with the avante-guard multi-generational company, Working Ground, with director Hannah Dennison. Mirah has also studied Afro-Caribbean dances of the Orixas for thirty years including with Dr. Yanique Hume. Rodrigo was born in Mexico City and began his training in classical Ballet with Dagmar Kortum and at the Universidad Autonoma de Mexico (National University of Mexico). He performed with the renowned late Gerardo Delgado, En Dos Partes, of Mexico City including as finalists in INBA/UAM. Rodrigo studied formally at the Trisha Brown School (NYC), The Merce Cunningham School (NYC) and Nikolais and Lois Dance Lab (NYC) with support from FONCA Fondo Nacional para la Cultura y las Artes (National Endowment for the Arts in Mexico). He is a Certified Shiatsu Therapist and graduate of the advanced studies program at the Acupressure Institute of Berkeley.



MIJAIL ROJAS (Cuba/MX) graduated from the National School of Arts of Cuba specializing in modern and folk dance (1985 -1992). In 1992 he joined the company "Retazos" as a soloist in 1994. Since 1995 he lives in Mexico City where he has worked with Alicia Sánchez y Cía, "The Theater of Movement" where he participated in prestigious festivals, National and international such as: Festival of the Historical Center of Mexico City, Cervantino Festival, Festival Mexichkeho Tance V Ceske

Republic, Queens Theater in The Park, Tangente Montreal, Links Not Project, New York, Met in Beijing, China, among many others. He has been a FONCA intern in the interpreter role twice, 2004-2005 and 2007-2008. Founder and director of the project "Pulso cia Danza." In 2006 he was commissioned as a choreographer by the organization Danspace Project Saint Mark's Church, New York and again in 2007 as a guest dancer. Winner of the National Dance Award INBA - UAM 2006 in the category best performer. As a teacher and pedagogue of postmodern movement techniques, he has developed a personal style resulting from the work of 15 years of research, creating the interpretation method "SOBREVIVENCIA ESCENICA." He currently works as a teacher in the Dance Faculty of the Universidad Veracruzana and as Artistic Director of Artifice and Pulso cia Danza.



ERIKA SUÁREZ [Xalapa] is currently a soloist in the show Jarocho, musician and dancer in Sonex and Director of Erika Suárezcía. She is the director of Artífice Center for Dance. She has shared the stage with great flamenco figures such as his teacher Manuel Reyes, Maria Juncal, Adela Campallo, Ursula and Tamara Lopez and Felipe Mato. Erika has received support from FONCA 2011- 2012 for studies abroad and 2007-2008 young creators. Erika was a jury of the PECDAS-FONCA in the category of dance and choreography for the

states of Sinaloa and Sonora in 2012. Erika was considered by the CENIDI-DANZA José Limón as one of the best performers of her kind was invited to participate in the tribute to the great masters of dance Mexicana in 2003 and 2014. In 2003, SOMECA VITARS awarded her with recognition for her valuable artistic career. In 1999, she founded Erika Suárez Cía. and has performed in different stages of Mexico and abroad. Erika is considered one of the greatest performers of Experimental Flamenco.



YANIQUE HUME (Jamaica/Cuba) DR. YANIQUE HUME [Jamaica] is a multifaceted scholar, dancer and choreographer with extensive research expertise and specialization across the Americas and the African Diaspora. As a tenured academic and professor at the University of West Indies at Cave Hill from the Caribbean with extensive regional and international experience, she has secured expertise and contribution to the Caribbean intellectual tradition operating from the disciplines of Cultural

Anthropology and Performance Studies. Dr. Hume's research experience and teaching areas include: religious and performance cultures of the African diaspora, Caribbean thought, popular culture, migration, and diasporic identities. As a multilingual researcher, her fieldwork experience in dance forms and sacred arts are centered in the Caribbean and Latin America, especially Cuba, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Suriname, Brazil, and Colombia. In applied research, her work has focused on the creative industries and cultural policy; migration and tourism; museological production and management. Dr. Hume is the co-editor of Caribbean Cultural

Thought: From Plantation to Diaspora (2013); Caribbean Popular Culture: Power, Politics, and Performance (2016); and Passages and Afterworlds: Anthropological Perspectives on Death in the Caribbean (2018). As a professional dancer and choreographer, she has worked with the National Dance Theatre Company of Jamaica, L'Acadco United Caribbean Dance Force, and Danza Caribe of Cuba. Her choreography draws on over 25 years of training in Afro-Caribbean dance with specializations in Haitian, Jamaican and Cuban movement vocabularies.