
Ramiro Guerra, a Pioneer of Cuban Modern Dance, Dies

02/05/2019



Ramiro Guerra, National Dance Award winner in 2000, passed away on Wednesday in Cuba, where he set a landmark as a choreographer, a theorist, a researcher and a pioneer of contemporary dance in the country.

As a creator, his esthetics was marked by an extensive fusion of techniques and studies that ranged from classic ballet to the basic principles of modern dance from the United States, where he took classes from Doris Humphrey and Jose Limon, although he said that his greatest influence was Martha Graham's technique.

After returning to Cuba, he devoted to studying Cuban folklore and in 1959, he founded the National Modern Dance Company, which is known today as Contemporary Dance of Cuba.

He also founded the National Folkloric Company at a time when there was no dance tradition or audience, or a reserve of Cuban dancers, and he portrayed Cuban issues in dance, and researched and wrote texts on art in several magazines that were later compiled in books.

Guerra graduated in Law in 1949 from the University of Havana and received the Honoris Causa title from the University of Arts (ISA).

He is considered the father of Cuban contemporary dance and a pioneer in studies about dance in Cuba.

Guerra was granted the Alejo Carpentier Medal, the Felix Varela Order, the Alejo Carpentier Award on Essay and the National Dance Award.