
Cuban Dance Company Honors US Choreographer Merce Cunningham

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Cuban dance company Malpaso is dedicating a season to one of the paradigmatic figures of contemporary dance, US choreographer Merce Cunningham.

Companies from all over the world are celebrating Cunningham's 100th birthday this year, as he was interested in combining the technology of his time with dance.

After being a soloist in Martha Graham's company from 1937 to 1943, the dancer founded the Merce Cunningham Dance Company, for which he created nearly 200 choreographies.

Cunningham was honored in France as Commandeur (Commander) of the Order of Arts and Letters (1982), Chevalier (Knight) (1989) and Officier (Officer) (2004) of the Legion of Honor; while in 2005, he received the Praemium Imperiale in Tokyo, Japan.

Dancers who worked directly with the US choreographer, who died in 2009, staged Fieldeng Sixes with 11 dancers from Malpaso. The choreography was recently exhibited at the Joyce Theater in New York.