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**The Big Easy Meets The Boggie Down Bronx in Milteri Tucker's Choreography: "Bamboula!"**

(Bronx, NY – October 19, 2015) The Bronx Council on the Arts, Papatian & BAAD (Bronx Academy of Arts & Dance) presents the world premiere of Milteri Tucker's dance concert "Bamboula" performed by the Bombazo Dance Company in collaboration with Baba L. Grey from New Orleans' musical group Bamboula 2000. The 8:00pm performance will take place on Saturday October 24th at BAAD's Theater at 2474 Westchester Avenue in the Westchester Square section of the Bronx. Admission is \$20.00. This performance is part of Papatian's and BAAD's Open Call Performance Series at BAAD, supported by the Jerome Foundation.



**"Bamboula"**, Milteri Tucker Concepcion's new evening-length work was inspired by her family roots in Puerto Rico and New Orleans. It takes Afro Puerto Rican Bomba music and dance back to its Congolese origins, Southern Style! Live percussion and vibrant dance continues a journey which began when the company had the distinction to be the first dance and drum ensemble from the Bronx to perform in the World Rhythms Festival in New Orleans' historical Congo Square.

**Bombazo Dance Company** is a nonprofit dance company, whose mission is to showcase choreographies that have been influenced and inspired by Afro Puerto Rican, Afro Caribbean and traditional folkloric elements drawn from our history as Americans and as Latinos. Combining those main ingredients and fusing them with classical, contemporary and social styles of dance, a new movement vocabulary is created while still preserving the authenticity of our culture. The word "Bombazo" signifies a Bomba jam, where the community gathers to celebrate life through its rhythms, song and dance. Our company members are professionals in their field. They hail from different countries, such as Asia, Europe, Central & South America, the Caribbean and African Diaspora. All are strong technical dancers, learning, sharing and performing Bomba.

**Milteri Tucker Concepcion** is a Bronx choreographer born and raised in Puerto Rico. Ms. Tucker holds degrees in Dance, Biology and Chemistry and a Masters in Dance from NYU. She the founder and artistic director of BOMBAZO Dance Company and has worked for distinguished dance companies and choreographers from Puerto Rico, the Caribbean and the United States. She has performed and showcased her work at City Center, Alvin Ailey, Hostos Center for the Arts & Culture's Main Stage, BAAD, Pregones Theater, Thalia Spanish Theater, Castillo Theater, El Museo del Barrio, Julia de Burgos Cultural Center, Lehman Center for the Performing Arts, PRTT and STEPS. Among her many Theater credits, she portrayed Josephine Baker for Macy's Herald Square tribute to the "First Diva: Josephine Baker" in 2007; she performed for Broadway's Easter Bonnet at the Minskoff Theater in 2011; and she was the highlighted dancer at the 2013 Latin Billboards with Latin artist sensation Don Omar and Univision Commercial celebrating Puerto Rican Heritage month. She has been recognized by the Bronx Borough President, Honorable Ruben Diaz Jr., for her work with her company in the Bronx; is a Hola Award recipient for Best Choreography in a musical; and received the Comité Noviembre Lo Mejor de Nuestra Cultura Award for best Puerto Rican Choreographer.

**Featured Members of the Bombazo Dance Company:** Miriam Gallardo, Charles Fafa Brown, Cynthia Paniagua, Kharis Collins, Noelle Phillips, Nakita Andre Newton, Roberto Parris, Milteri Tucker, Billy T El Negro, Okai, Morgan Zwerlein, Oreste Abrantes, Kevin Moehringer, Jon Attman, Andrew McGovern, and Luther Grey. **Costumes:** Bombazo Wear; **Set Design:** Nestor Carrillo; **Projection:** Ricardo Muniz; **Light Design:** Marisol Ibarra.

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**Bronx Writers Center • BCA @ 2700 • Longwood Art Gallery**

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