



THE KIMMEL CENTER  
ACADEMY OF MUSIC  
MERRIAM THEATER

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No need to travel to celebrate Carnival, it's coming to Philly! Brazil's premier folk dance company @BFBahia comes to @KimmelCenter 2/17

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**BRAZIL'S PREMIER PROFESSIONAL FOLK DANCE COMPANY  
BALÉ FOLCLÓRICO DA BAHÍA  
PERFORMS AT THE MERRIAM THEATER  
FEBRUARY 17, 2017**

**PERFORMANCE TO TAKE PLACE DURING BRAZIL'S CARNIVAL CELEBRATION**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** (Philadelphia, PA, December 22, 2016) — **Balé Folclórico da Bahía**, Brazil's premier folkloric dance company, celebrates nearly 30 years of world-class, thrilling repertory of folkloric Afro-Brazilian dances with a performance at the Kimmel Center's Merriam Theater February 17, at 8:00 p.m. Balé Folclórico da Bahía returns to Philadelphia with its 38-member troupe of dancers, singers and musicians to perform spectacular repertory based on "Bahían" folkloric dances of African origin including slave dances, capoeira (a form of martial arts), samba, and those celebrating Carnival – an enormous celebration in Brazil during which this performance will take place. Formed in 1988 by Walson Botelho and Ninho Reis, the company works to preserve and share the vibrant dances and music of their region with the world.

"Balé Folclórico da Bahía has an incredible history as Brazil's leading professional folk dance company and we're thrilled for them to share these rich stories with our audiences," said Anne Ewers, President & CEO of the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts. "Through world-class programming, including this highly-anticipated performance, the Kimmel Center continues our mission to present shows that reach broad and diverse audiences."

Bahía is the historical and cultural heart of Brazil, with approximately 80 percent of Bahia's inhabitants being of African descent. The company presents Bahia's most important values under a contemporary theatrical vision. Over the last 29 years, Balé Folclórico da Bahía has gained national and international success for their outstanding performances during festivals and tours. Their success has resulted in

invitations to perform all over the world, awards, and critical acclaim. Since their first U.S. tour in 1995 where the troupe sold out multiple performances, Balé Folclórico da Bahía has performed in 88 U.S. cities.

Other upcoming dance performances on the Kimmel Center Campus include **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater** (February 3–4, 2017, Merriam Theater), **Shaping Sound After the Curtain** (March 7, 2017, Merriam Theater), and **PHILADANCO** (April 14–15, 2017, Perelman Theater).

## **BALÉ FOLCLÓRICO DA BAHÍA**

### **Merriam Theater**

*February 17, 2017, 8:00 p.m.*

### **Tickets**

Tickets are available now and start at \$29.00. Tickets can be purchased by calling 215-893-1999, online at [kimmelcenter.org](http://kimmelcenter.org), or at the Kimmel Center Box Office. Group sales are available for groups of 10 or more and can be purchased by calling (215) 790-5883. More information at [kimmelcenter.org](http://kimmelcenter.org).

### **The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts**

Located in the heart of Center City, Philadelphia, the Kimmel Center's mission is to operate a world-class performing arts center that engages and serves a broad audience through diverse programming, arts education, and community outreach. The Kimmel Center Campus is comprised of the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts (Verizon Hall, Perelman Theater, SEI Innovation Studio, and the Merck Arts Education Center), the Academy of Music (owned by the Philadelphia Orchestra Association), and the Merriam Theater. The Kimmel Center is also home to eight Resident Companies: The Philadelphia Orchestra, Opera Philadelphia, The Pennsylvania Ballet, The Philly POPS, PHILADANCO, The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, The Philadelphia Chamber Music Society and Curtis Institute of Music. With nearly 9,000 seats per night, The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts is the region's most impactful performing arts center, and the second largest in the country. TD Bank, America's Most Convenient Bank, is the season sponsor of the Kimmel Center's 2016-2017 Season. American Airlines is the official airline of Broadway Philadelphia. For additional information, visit [kimmelcenter.org](http://kimmelcenter.org).

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