

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**GRUPO CORPO MAKES THEIR CHICAGO DEBUT AT THE AUDITORIUM THEATRE
FEBRUARY 28 AND MARCH 1, 2015**

Critically Acclaimed Company Presents “Sem Mim” and “Onqotô”

CHICAGO — Passion, seduction, athletics and culture collide on the [Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University](#) stage when Brazil’s premiere dance company [Grupo Corpo](#) make their Chicago debut February 28 and March 1, 2015. Led by Artistic Director **Paulo Pederneiras** and Choreographer **Rodrigo Pederneiras**, the company melds traditional Brazilian dance with western contemporary movement in what “The Scotsman” hails as... “the Latin dance you see on [television], smoothed out, funkyed up and drenched in meaning.” For their Chicago debut, the company presents “**Sem Mim**,” set to an original soundtrack by Spanish musician and composer **Carlos Núñez** and Brazilian composer **José Miguel Wisnik**, as well as “**Onqotô**”—also set to original music by **Wisnik** along with **Caetano Veloso**.

Tickets (\$25 – \$65) are on sale now and available online at [AuditoriumTheatre.org](#), by calling (800) 982-ARTS (2787) or at the Auditorium Theatre Box Office (50 E. Congress Pkwy).

“As the Auditorium Theatre continues its 125th Anniversary celebration in 2015, we are thrilled to introduce Chicago audiences to the world-renown Grupo Corpo,” said Auditorium Theatre Executive Director **Brett Batterson**. “As we strive to present the best talent from around the world on our landmark stage, Grupo Corpo offers a truly unique and stunning approach to dance under the innovative partnership of Paolo and Rodrigo Pederneiras.”

Melding various forms of dance and athletics, Grupo Corpo creates a unique art form with each and every dance they perform. “The flirty bendiness of rumba, the bounce of capoeira, the skyward swoop of lindyhop and, yes, the lightning footwork of the midfielder... all combine to create a lean, limber dance mode that looks enormous fun to do” (“The Independent”).

“It has always been a dream to bring Grupo Corpo to Chicago and to finally do so at the Auditorium Theatre during their 125th Anniversary Season exceeds our wildest expectations,” said Grupo Corpo Artistic Director **Paulo Pederneiras**. “We are so thrilled that Chicago audiences will be able to experience the colorful, rhythmic, passionate performances of our multi-faceted dancers in this historic venue.”

About “Sem Mim”

Set to original music by **Carlos Núñez** and Brazilian composer **José Miguel Wisnik**, Rodrigo Pederneiras’s “**Sem Mim**” draws inspiration from the Galician-Portuguese medieval songbook “Sea of Virgo” by Martin Codax. The seven chants, or “friend chants,” both mourn the absence and celebrate the return of a beloved friend. Pederneiras uses the lyrics to show the juxtaposition between calm and fury, masculine and feminine while also using shapes as well as the dancers

own bodies—covered in what appears to be tattoos—to create the fluidity of the ocean, mountains clouds and more.

About “Onqotô”

Stemming from an ongoing conversation about the creation of the universe, **Caetano Veloso** and **José Miguel Wisnik** created the music for what would turn into the soundtrack to Pederneiras’s “**Onqotô**.” Juxtaposing the big bang theory against one of the most traditional soccer matches in Brazil, the choreography is a sharp contrast between chaos and order; roughness and tenderness; and volume and sparseness. The scenic design, created by Paulo Pederneiras, gives the illusion of both a globe but at times a soccer stadium as well highlighting the two competing primal scenes.

About Grupo Corpo

Brazil as a whole, with all its cultural diversity, can see itself in Grupo Corpo, the dance company founded in 1975 in Belo Horizonte. In a world where the speed of information is producing an increasingly homogeneous landscape, Grupo Corpo stands out for having developed a signature style of their own. House Choreographer Rodrigo Pederneiras is one of the few choreographers able to mix classic ballet and folk dances and then set bodies in motion that push the limits of technical rigor, while Artistic Director Paulo Pederneiras is able to transform choreography into a dance artwork. The balanced cast of dancers, stars in their own right, fine-tune each other with exquisite precision.

When one sees Grupo Corpo dance on stage it is as if all questions concerning the transit between nature and culture are being fully answered. All facets of Brazil, past and future, erudite and popular, foreign influence and local color, and the urban and the suburban, come to being as art. Brazilian art. World art.

Performance Schedule and Ticket Information

Saturday, February 28, 2015 | 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, March 1, 2015 | 3:00 pm

Tickets (\$25 – \$65) are available online at AuditoriumTheatre.org, by calling (800) 982-ARTS (2787) or in-person at Auditorium Theatre’s Box Office (50 E. Congress Pkwy). Discounted tickets for groups of 10 or more are available at (312) 341-2357 or sales@auditoriumtheatre.org.

[Grupo Corpo](http://GrupoCorpo) is part of the Auditorium’s International Dance Series, which also includes [Tango Buenos Aires](http://TangoBuenosAires), [Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater](http://AlvinAileyAmericanDanceTheater), [Eifman Ballet of St. Petersburg](http://EifmanBalletofStPetersburg) and [The Royal Ballet](http://TheRoyalBallet). Subscriptions are available at a 30% discount at (312) 341-2357 or AuditoriumTheatre.org.

*The International Dance Series is sponsored by the **NIB Foundation**.*

Auditorium Theatre’s 2014 – 15 Season:

The Auditorium Theatre 2014 – 15 Season includes [Tango Buenos Aires](http://TangoBuenosAires) (January 22) [Giordano Dance Chicago](http://GiordanoDanceChicago) (January 31); [Grupo Corpo](http://GrupoCorpo) (February 28 – March 1); [Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater](http://AlvinAileyAmericanDanceTheater) (March 6 – 15); [River North Dance Chicago](http://RiverNorthDanceChicago) (March 28); [Eifman Ballet of St. Petersburg](http://EifmanBalletofStPetersburg) (May 8 – 10); [Chicago Rhythm Fest](http://ChicagoRhythmFest) (May 13); [“His Way - Sinatra’s Centennial Celebration”](http://HisWay-SintraCentennialCelebration) (May

30); and [The Royal Ballet](#)'s "Don Quixote" (June 18 – 21). For a complete listing of events at the Auditorium Theatre, please click [here](#).

125th Anniversary Season Sponsors

The Auditorium Theatre would like to thank their 125th Anniversary Season Sponsors: Lead Corporate Sponsor **Nicor Gas**, Lead Foundation Sponsor **Robert R. McCormick Foundation** and **David D. Hiller**, International Dance Series Sponsor **NIB Foundation**, and "Made in Chicago" Dance Series sponsor **The Boeing Company**. Media sponsors include **Chicago Magazine** and **WXRT**, and the **Pasquinelli Family Foundation** is the Gala Dinner Celebration Sponsor. Student Matinee Series Sponsors for the 2014 – 15 Season include **The Private Bank** and **The Robert Thomas Bobins Foundation**.

About the Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University

The Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University, located at 50 E. Congress Pkwy, is an Illinois, not-for-profit organization committed to presenting the finest in international, cultural, community and educational programming to Chicago, and to the continued restoration and preservation of the National Historic Landmark Auditorium Theatre. In September of 2014, the Auditorium Theatre was awarded the inaugural Fifth Star Award by Mayor Rahm Emanuel and the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events. On December 9, 2014, the Auditorium Theatre celebrated its 125th Birthday with a proclamation from the City of Chicago declaring it "Auditorium Theatre Day."

The Auditorium Theatre is generously supported by the **MacArthur Foundation**, the **Illinois Arts Council**, the **Sage Foundation**, and the **Palmer House Hilton**. For more information about programming, volunteer and donor opportunities or theatre tours, call (312) 341-2310 or visit AuditoriumTheatre.org.

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