MIAMI, FL May 13, 2009 – Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County proudly hosts the return of the hit musical CELIA: THE LIFE & MUSIC OF CELIA CRUZ. From June 2 - 21, 2009, South Florida audiences will witness the amazing story of how the marvelous “queen of salsa” rose to musical fame over the course of 60 years. The last CELIA: THE LIFE & MUSIC OF CELIA CRUZ run at the Adrienne Arsht Center was the launching point for the show’s international tour and drew more than 20,000 attendees, including celebrities such as Gloria and Emilio Estefan, talk show host Cristina Saralegui and many more.

Showcasing a superb ensemble of 18 astounding singers, incredible dancers and talented musicians, this grand encore performance highlights Celia Cruz’s journey to becoming one of the most significant Hispanic singers the world has ever known. For CELIA’s return engagement in Miami, Anissa Gathers returns in the starring role alongside Pedro Telemaco as Celia’s beloved husband “Pedro Knight;” Kevin Ceballo as the “Nurse” and Seidy Carrera as the young “Celia.” Music director Isidro Infante (who performed with the real Cruz) brings his genius to the stage leading a seven-piece band and complementing the incomparable Gathers. Audiences will be thrilled to hear live renditions of dozens of Celia Cruz’s beloved songs, including “Guantanamera,” “Químbara,” “Toro Mata,” and “La Vida es un Carnaval,” and “La Bomba,” Celia’s groundbreaking collaboration with Tito Puente which is credited with sparking the popularity of salsa music in the ’70s.
Following the international tour, the production has been enriched for its return to the United States, which begins with the run at Miami’s Adrienne Arsht Center before returning to its birthplace – New York City. Enhancements include an augmented set by Carlos Saenz, additional costumes by Miami resident Haydee Morales and enhanced choreography created by Leo Chavez performed by an ensemble of dancers from Miami, Las Vegas and New York City.

From a modest childhood in Cuba to performing on a global scale for millions of fans, CELIA magically tells the legend’s tale of rising to international superstardom from the point of view of her beloved husband, Pedro Knight. Presentations include captivating song performances, dazzling storytelling, heartfelt dialogue, electrifying dance choreography and many of the glamorous costumes worn by the stylish salsa icon. The show is performed in Spanish with select performances each week containing bilingual dialogue (English and Spanish). All songs, however, are sung in Spanish during every performance.

“Celia’s music is in the hearts of many and her many powerful messages remind us of what is important in life,” said M. John Richard, President and CEO of the Adrienne Arsht Center. He continued, “The spirit of Celia lives on at the Adrienne Arsht Center this summer.”

Last summer, the Adrienne Arsht Center was proud to present the dynamic musical for the first time in Miami. It was a huge hit that received rave reviews and attracted an array of celebrity patrons including the Estefan family, Latin music sensation Jon Secada, talk show host Cristina Saralegui, Miami rapper Pitbull and CSI Miami star David Caruso. The captivating storyline, contagious music, tremendous performances and incredibly successful Miami debut at the Adrienne Arsht Center ultimately led to an exciting world tour for the musical.

Spanning a journey of 60 successful years in music, CELIA shares the salsa star’s tale of challenge, defiance, aspiration, courage, fame, adversity, grief – and ultimately, an undying love of her husband, country, music, and fans. CELIA is co-written by husband and wife team Carmen Rivera and Candido Tirado. Henry Cardenas, Gerry Fojo and Daddy Yankee produced CELIA (the same duo behind the well known musical, Who Killed Hector Lavoe?). One of Spain’s highly accomplished theatre and television directors, Jaime Azpilicueta, joins talented team once again.

TICKETS
Tickets for CELIA: THE LIFE & MUSIC OF CELIA CRUZ are now on public sale. Single ticket prices range from $60-$125. Tickets priced at $125 are for the VIP seating package that includes a post-performance meet and greet with cast members, and an autographed poster. Tickets are available through the Adrienne Arsht Center box office at 305.949.6722 or online at www.arshtcenter.org. Groups 15 or more contact 786.468.2326.

CALENDAR LISTING
CELIA: THE LIFE & MUSIC OF CELIA CRUZ
Following last year’s popular run that drew more than 20,000 attendees, South Florida will get another chance to witness CELIA: THE LIFE AND MUSIC OF CELIA CRUZ. Kick off your summer June 2 singing and dancing with Cuba’s legendary salsa diva when this dynamic and rhythmic production returns to the Knight Concert Hall following its triumphant Latin American tour!

Called “EXPLOSIVE” by The New York Post, here’s one more chance to discover what all Miami was talking about. Featuring a hit parade of Celia’s greatest hits, including “La negra tiene tumbao” and “Quimbara.”

Select performances contain bilingual dialogue (English and Spanish) while others are spoken exclusively in Spanish. All songs, however, are sung in Spanish during every performance. For complete performance schedule, please visit www.arshtcenter.org.

June 2 – 21
Tickets: $60 - $125
John S. & James L. Knight Concert Hall
Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County
1300 Biscayne Boulevard, Miami, FL 33132

Editor’s Note:
Related high-resolution photos are available by request.

Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County is made possible by the public support of the Miami-Dade County Mayor and the Board of County Commissioners, the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, and the Miami-Dade County Tourist Development Council. Education & Outreach is funded in part by The Children’s Trust. The Adrienne Arsht Center also receives generous support from private and corporate contributions to the Performing Arts Center Foundation of Greater Miami through its Visionary Society Membership Program; City of Miami Omni Community Redevelopment Agency; American Express Company; Arison Arts Foundation; Dade Community Foundation; ExxonMobil Inter-America Inc.; The MAP-Fund, a program of Creative Capital Supported by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation; The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts; the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Arts Council; National Endowment for the Arts; and John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

About Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County
Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County is Miami-Dade County’s largest ever public/private-sector partnership, comprised of an $150 million private capital campaign conducted by the Performing Arts Center Foundation and public funding drawn primarily from the County’s Convention Development Tax revenues, as well as the City of Miami Omni Redevelopment District Community Redevelopment Agency. Greatly enhancing the artistic and educational opportunities in South Florida, the Adrienne Arsht Center will have significant and long-term economic benefits for the city and the region.

The Adrienne Arsht Center, designed by the world-renowned architect Cesar Pelli of Pelli Clarke Pelli Architects, includes the 2,400-seat Sanford and Dolores Ziff Ballet Opera House, the 2,200-seat Knight Concert Hall, a 200-seat black box Carnival Studio Theater, the Peacock Education Center, a restored
Art Deco Tower, and the Parker and Vann Thomson Plaza for the Arts, which unites the Center buildings across Biscayne Boulevard, providing a magnificent setting for outdoor entertainment and informal gatherings. The key members of the design team include theater planning and design consultant Joshua Dachs of Fisher Dachs Associates, Inc. and acoustician Russell Johnson of ARTEC, Inc., both of whom worked on the project since its inception.

The Adrienne Arsht Center is a Miami venue not only for its four resident companies (Concert Association of Florida, Florida Grand Opera, Miami City Ballet, and New World Symphony), but also for many smaller South Florida arts organizations that will perform in its theaters on a regular basis, as well as for the finest popular and classical performances from around the world. With state-of-the-art performance facilities in Miami for the first time, the Adrienne Arsht Center offers South Florida audiences the best and most diverse theater, music, and dance – with a dedication to entertain, challenge and educate all segments of the community. For more information, visit www.arshtcenter.org.