



Juan Castellanos (Ireland – Irish and Cuban descent) – *Dancer, Maria Helena's brother*

Juan Rafael Castellanos is very excited to be partaking in the *Heaven* collaborative with so many other amazing artists. Juan was born in Dublin, Ireland and moved to Philadelphia at the age of four. Juan grew up in a household filled with artists, which naturally led him to gain a love for dance. At the age of seven Juan began his studies in ballet and contemporary dance at Metropolitan Ballet Academy in Philadelphia. He trained there for 10 seasons under the direction of Lisa Collins. His favorite of all pieces he has performed to date was a duet named ‘Two Four Love’ choreographed by Sarah Mettin. He is currently in his first season at Charlotte Ballet as a trainee under the direction of Laszlo Berdo, Kati Mayo, and Patricia McBride. His summer studies include San Francisco Ballet, Pennsylvania Ballet, Next Generation Ballet, and Charlotte Ballet. Juan has competed in the YAGP New York Finals since the age of 9. His goal is to have a fun and joyous dance career, inspiring people all over the world, and his dream role is Ali (the slave), the lead in the ballet *Le Corsaire*. However, anyone who truly knows Juan can easily vouch that there is no other ultimate fanatic when it comes to professional sports. He spends a lot of time watching, listening, and writing his personal opinions on the sports world.

Call for Action:

“In a world filled with madness, confusion, and mayhem, it is vital that we as a community become even more politically active on a daily basis. We have the opportunity to expand our knowledge and relationships with everyday people, while at the same time being able to express our beliefs on a grander scale”. – Juan