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For immediate release



### **DREAM TEAM DO PASSINHO**

The new "carioca funk" phenomenon in Brazil, Dream Team do Passinho is a musical group from the favelas. The five young group members - Diogo Breguete, Hiltinho, Lellêzinha, Pablinho and Rafael Mike – sing and dance in the cultural style that emerged from the Brazilian suburbs in the mid-2000's. The "passinho", which means "small step", is a fusion of funk and breakdance steps set to Brazilian rhythms like frevo and samba. The Dream Team released their first video "Todo Mundo Aperta o Play" (Everybody Hit Play) in 2013. The group also collaborated with Ricky Martin to record "Vida", which has nearly 4 million views on Youtube. Their performance at the BrazilFoundation Gala will be their first in the United States.

### **TEAM THAT DREAMS**

The "garota de Ipanema" (girl from Ipanema) of today walks down the crowded streets so quickly that Vinicius de Moraes would fail to spot her. In fact, she does not even live in Ipanema because real estate prices are too high. She lives in the suburbs, goes to the beach by bus and exudes black power. The "Menino do Rio" (boy from Rio) swapped his dragon tattoo for a Maori drawing and flirts on Instagram. So who is the typical Rio local of today? The dancers from the Dream Team do Passinho represent this new generation in a city full of joy, talent and contrasts.

Diogo Breguete is a stylish 24-year-old living in the "Cachoerinha" favela. Married to his first girlfriend, with whom he has two children, he worked as a janitor before he could realize his greatest dream: to dance. With an accent and rhythm from the favela, Diogo enchants everyone with his simplicity, joy and kindness. Those traits shine through his eyes when he talks about his dad. Breguete can talk for hours about the elegance and popularity of his father, who died in his arms – hit by a stray bullet in Rio's "civil war".

With optimism and joy, Pablinho stands out in the crowd of the largest favela in Latin America, Rocinha. With a ripped body and many tattoos, his style demands attention. When he dances, the 5'4" tall boy wins fans across Brazil. But his talent goes beyond dance: he has a beautiful voice and a beautiful name - Pablo "Hneirque". Authentic and optimistic, he started liking his name when he realized that the mistake on his ID made him unique. "How many Pablos AGÁENEIRQUE do you know? I am unique!", he jokes.

The only girl in the group and an actress in the TV series *Malhação*, Lellêzinha is a diva. Only 17 years old, she redefines the meaning of the word. She is a real-world diva: she lives in the suburbs of Rio, studies at a public school, rides the bus and wears her black power like a crown. Perhaps she is also a princess. And the fairy tale could not be more contemporary: she gained visibility when she posted dance videos on social media and joined the group - in which she both sings and dances. "Now the only thing I am missing is the prince," adds Lellêzinha. "I want to give shows with the Dream Team and play good characters on TV and film. Hollywood and singing with Beyoncé are my dreams", said the girl whose laugh is so carefree as her ability to dream.

Hiltinho and Rafael Mike are very typical Rio locals: the kind of locals who were not born in Rio. Actually, Hiltinho lives in Nova Iguaçu, on the outskirts of Rio de Janeiro. The 18-year-old man is tall, thin, and with a body that is as if it had been sculpted from black marble. Son of a maid, Hiltinho is an artist, high school student and video gamer. Like many young men, he discovered the Passinho Dance on Youtube; He trained in a small room in his home and became a great dancer.

Rafael Mike, the oldest in the group (35), is from a generation that remains young at heart. The newest resident of Rio, he was also born and raised in Nova Iguaçu. It was in these suburbs that he led a cultural initiative for many years that brought together artists, musicians and interesting people in his backyard. Through his generosity the singer, composer and musical director for the Dream Team do Passinho encourages creation and performance in the other members. The lyrics "the kids wake up... dreaming. No one is better than the other in their dancing" are part of the song "Time Que Sonha", (Team who dreams), which he composed for the other group members and is on the CD "Aperte o Play".

The Dream Team do Passinho will perform in New York for the first time during BrazilFoundation's Gala, which is celebrating the city of Rio.

Dream Team do Passinho Youtube links:

Dream Team do Passinho - Todo Mundo Aperta o Play  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rrtFy5C02Pc>

Dream Team do Passinho - De Ladin  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tv3vriyEtR8>

Ricky Martin - Vida ft. Dream Team do Passinho  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ggH90Im05E>

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