



Lorna and Lorena Feijóo with a lamb friend, all in costume for Val Caniparoli's *Lambarena*, and *Sesame Street*'s Zoe

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# Street Dreams

Ballerinas Lorna and Lorena Feijóo visit *Sesame Street*.

By Jocelyn Anderson

**Broadway, 42nd Street and ... Sesame Street?** There's more than one famous road for dancers in New York City. Sisters Lorna and Lorena Feijóo recently made a rare appearance dancing together in the fictional children's neighborhood. Their segments will air during the new season of *Sesame Street*, which starts on August 11 on PBS (check local listings).

Lorna, a principal at Boston Ballet, and Lorena, a principal at San Francisco Ballet, grew up in Cuba, where they both studied at the National Ballet School in Havana. *Sesame Street* was one of the only American shows they could watch there. They would regularly see their favorite performers such as Mikhail Baryshnikov, Celia Cruz and Tito Puente.

"It's such an iconic program," says Lorena. "We are delighted to be a part of it."

The sisters recorded two segments that will air in different episodes. First, they teach Grover the meaning of pirouette. In typical Grover fashion, he doesn't let them finish explaining before he tries the movement and gets it all wrong.

"He was trying to do pirouettes, and he made sounds with the movement, like, 'whoa, whoa, whoa!'" says Lorna. "It was so funny."

Grover, dressed in tights, leg warmers, grey shorts, a red

and white striped tank top and ballet slippers, finally gets it but spins out of control.

"They stuck him on a drill, so it looked like he was pirouetting forever," says Lorena. "It was very hard to keep quiet. When they called quiet on the set, it took all our effort not to laugh. I was crying, because the guy [who operates Grover, Eric Jacobson] is so good."

Next, they bonded with Zoe, the monster who loves ballet, and performed an excerpt of Val Caniparoli's *Lambarena*, a ballet set to a fusion of Bach and ethnic drumming that also combines a classical vocabulary with hip shaking.

After they perform, they dance with Zoe, asking those at home to join them. Being so close to the puppets, the sisters say, was the best part of the day.

"They are very endearing," says Lorena. "You want to take them home, and then you realize there is a person that you would have to take home, too."

*Sesame Street* debuted on PBS in 1968 with the mission of bringing educational TV to children and is now seen in more than 120 countries.

"I knew we were going to have fun," says Lorena, "but I think this is something that will stick out in my memory forever." 