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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **34th Annual San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival**

### ***The World United Through Dance***

**Featuring 30 Bay Area Companies Representing World Culture  
Through Dance and Music Traditions and Innovative Cross-Cultural  
Collaborations**

**Season Curated by Artistic Directors Carlos Carvajal and  
CK Ladzekpo June 2-July 1 at Novellus Theater at YBCA, Cowell  
Theater, Asian Art Museum and de Young Museum in San Francisco**

**National Dance/USA Conference Features Festival Artists**

**Lifetime Achievement Award Conferred on Mexican Dance Master  
Zenón Barrón**

San Francisco, CA, April 2, 2012— For the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival, *The World United Through Dance*, Festival Artistic Directors Carlos Carvajal and CK Ladzekpo have curated a thrilling line-up featuring 30 veteran Bay Area dance companies performing both ancient and contemporary dances, including ground breaking cross-cultural collaborations and encore performances of some favorite dance pieces from past seasons. The Festival, taking place June 2 through July 1, continues to bring dance to an ever widening audience throughout San Francisco as it opens at Fort Mason Center, moves to prominent San Francisco museums, and once again returns to Yerba Buena's Novellus Theater for three exhilarating weekends. For more information, visit [www.sfethnicdancefestival.org](http://www.sfethnicdancefestival.org). [EDITOR NOTE: Complete main stage and participatory events, artists, dates and venues may be found at the end of this release.]

The 2012 Festival is also proud to highlight Bay Area dancers in new ways via two exciting presentations this year. The Festival is co-hosting the Dance/USA conference, the annual national gathering of over 500 key dance leaders, in partnership with Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, ODC Theater, the San Francisco Ballet, and Dancers' Group. Festival artists will perform throughout the conference and will join other national dance companies and artists for dialogues during the four-day conference in San Francisco June 27-30. In addition, Festival audiences can experience off-stage interactions with Bay Area dance mavericks at

Audience Dialogues taking place during the first two Festival weekends, providing audiences an in-depth learning opportunity about the artists' creative processes, training and artistry.

In a ceremony during the Saturday night, June 23 Festival performance at the Novellus Theater, this year's Malonga Casquelourd Lifetime Achievement Award will be conferred on choreographer, performer, and Mexican dance master Zenón Barrón, Artistic Director of Ensamble Ballet Folklórico de San Francisco and former principal dancer with Amalia Hernandez' Ballet Folklórico de Mexico.

San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival Executive Director Julie Mushet says, "The Festival presents a wide range of world-class dancers and musicians who call the Bay Area home, and this year, in addition to presenting some of the wonderful highlights from over the years, we look forward to bringing a national focus to the importance and breadth of our companies and artists. There is no other dance community in the world with the cultural diversity, artistic excellence, and vibrancy of the San Francisco Bay Area's. We currently serve as the hub for over 450 Bay Area dance companies who are networked with many thousands of dancers and musicians all over the world. These deep international relationships sustain and innovate more than a hundred different dance forms. During the Dance/USA conference, we will bring a national focus to our dynamic and diverse dance community and celebrate our local artists who continue to enrich the lives of us all."

### **2012 Featured Performers**

Abhinaya Dance Company of San Jose (Indian Bharatanatyam)  
Ballet Folklórico Mexicano de Carlos Moreno (Son Jarocho from Veracruz, Mexico)  
Barbary Coast Cloggers (Appalachian Clogging)  
Chhandam Youth Dance Company (Indian Kathak)  
China Dance School and Theatre (Chinese Classical)  
Chinese Performing Arts of America (Chinese Acrobatic Dance)  
Chinyakare Ensemble (Zimbabwean Traditional)  
Collage Dance Ensemble (Eastern European Contemporary Folk)  
Melissa Cruz (Spanish Flamenco)  
De Rompe y Raja Cultural Association (Afro-Peruvian)  
Diamano Coura West African Dance Company (Liberian Tribal Initiation and Masked Dances)  
Ensamble Ballet Folklórico de San Francisco (Mexican Folkloric)  
Eszterlanc Hungarian Folk Ensemble (Hungarian Folk)  
FatChanceBellyDance (American Tribal Style Belly Dance)  
Mariam Gaibova and Abbos Kosimov (Tajik and Uzbek)  
Gadung Kasturi (Balinese Traditional)  
Gamelan Sekar Jaya (Balinese Traditional)  
Hālau o Keikiali'i (Hawaiian Hula Kahiko and Pahu)  
Las Que Son Son (Cuban Rumba)  
LIKHA - Pilipino Folk Ensemble (Filipino Traditional)  
Nā Lei Hulu I Ka Wēkiu (Hawaiian Hula)  
OngDance Company (Korean Contemporary)  
Pusaka Sunda (Sundanese Traditional)  
San Jose Taiko (Japanese Taiko)  
Sewam Dance - Eddie Madril (Native American Hoop Dance)  
Shabnam (Middle Eastern Belly Dance Fusion)  
Te Mana O Te Ra (Tahitian 'Ōte'a)  
Theatre Flamenco of San Francisco (Spanish Flamenco)  
El Tunante (Peruvian Marinera)  
Vishwa Shanthi Dance Academy (Indian Bharatanatyam)

## Tickets

Tickets to the *San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival* are \$12-\$58 and go **ON SALE BEGINNING APRIL 18** online at [www.sfethnicedancefestival.org](http://www.sfethnicedancefestival.org) or by calling (415) 415-978-2787. Family Matinees on Saturday afternoons offer 50% discounts to children age 12 and under, and group discounts are also available. For complete ticketing information and performance details, visit [www.sfethnicedancefestival.org](http://www.sfethnicedancefestival.org) or call (415) 474-3914.

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High resolution photos and broadcast quality video are available by request by contacting Scott Horton at (510) 735-9200. Images can be downloaded after April 5 at <http://www.sfethnicedancefestival.org/about/press/photos.html>

## San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival 2012 Schedule

### *The World United Through Dance*

#### **Festival Weekend 1 at Fort Mason Center**

##### **FESTIVAL OPENING EVENT**

##### **World Premiere**

##### **Gamelan Sekar Jaya with Pusaka Sunda**

Saturday, June 2 at 4pm and 8pm  
Cowell Theater, Fort Mason Center

Praised as the finest ensemble outside of Indonesia, Gamelan Sekar Jaya presents the thrilling world premiere of *Bayangan Jiwa* in collaboration with the Sundanese gamelan Pusaka Sunda. Created and led by I Dewa Putu Berata and Emiko Saraswati Susilo, *Bayangan Jiwa* evokes "the imagination of the spirit."

This innovative choreography explores the depths of Balinese dance while showcasing shadow-light technology alongside the rich, melodic sounds of the traditional Semarandana instruments: metallaphones, gongs, and seven-toned flutes.

Tickets: \$12-\$20 [www.fortmason.org](http://www.fortmason.org) or (415) 345-7575

This event is in partnership with the Fort Mason Presents Series.

##### **ARTIST DIALOGUE with Lily Cai**

Sunday, June 3 at 4 pm  
The Firehouse, Fort Mason Center

Since arriving in San Francisco over 25 years ago, Lily Cai has been a passionate dance innovator, working both within traditional Chinese dance forms and blazing new territory in the contemporary dance realm with her Lily Cai Chinese Dance Company. Join us for a dialogue with Lily about her artistic process and vision, and her fascinating life in dance.

Tickets: \$15 [www.fortmason.org](http://www.fortmason.org) or (415) 345-7575

#### **Festival Weekend Two at San Francisco Museums**

**ARTIST DIALOGUE and performance with Carolena Nericcio and FatChanceBellyDance  
DE YOUNG MUSEUM**

Saturday, June 9 at 2pm

Carolena Nericcio is a dance maverick and founder of a dance style called American Tribal Style Belly Dance, which is performed in majestic costuming incorporating textiles and ethnic jewelry from around the world. She has inspired many thousands of dancers who embody her vision of women dancing together as one entity. The dialogue with Carolena will be followed by a performance with members of her dance company, FatChanceBellyDance.

Tickets: \$25 [www.fortmason.org](http://www.fortmason.org) or (415) 345-7575

**FESTIVAL DANCE PERFORMANCE for with Il Hyun Kim  
ASIAN ART MUSEUM**

Sunday, June 10 at 2pm

Il Hyun Kim will perform a powerful Shamanic dance amidst a site-specific Sun K. Kwak artwork meditating on the spiritual and cosmological themes of the museum's "Phantoms of Asia" exhibit. In Korean Shamanism, death is not viewed as an end, but as part of a revolving cycle of death and rebirth. It is believed that the soul lives on forever in its own world of the dead, and the shaman is able to communicate with a soul through this dance.

Free with the price of admission to the Asian Art Museum [www.asianart.org](http://www.asianart.org)

**Festival Weekends Three, Four, and Five at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts**

**Novellus Theater Program 1  
Yerba Buena Center for the Arts**

Saturday, June 16, 3pm and 8pm

Sunday, June 17, 3pm

Dance from China, Cuba, Hawai'i, Hungary, India, Korea, Native America, Peru, Spain, and Transylvania.

Tickets: \$18-\$58 at <http://tickets.ybca.org> or 415-978-2787

El Tunante, Peru

Marinera, a Peruvian courtship dance, features spontaneous romantic interplay between three couples, marked by elegant spins, swirling handkerchiefs, and sensual, sinuous movement

Sewam Dance - Eddie Madril, Native American Plains, US

Many hoops are masterfully shaped into butterflies, eagles, and much more in this Native American hoop dance symbolizing the never-ending cycle of life

Chhandam Youth Dance Company, India

Intricate footwork and lightning fast *chakkars*, or spins, punctuate this dynamic Indian kathak dance entitled *Uttarakaala*, or Future

La Tania, Spain

*Alas al Viento*, or Wings to the Wind, is an alegrías style of flamenco dance from southern Spain that evokes unspoken narratives where every movement unleashes intense and serious beauty punctuated by sharp and joyous outbursts

Hālau o Keikiali'i, Hawai'i

The pahu drum, a symbol of change and new beginnings, calls to the heavens as this popular thirty-member dance company performs a quartet of dances in the hula kahiko style, done close to the ground and honoring Hawaiian gods, chiefs, and sacred places

OngDance Company, Korea

A contemporary piece with highly synchronized percussion, the *Shadow of Cheoyong* is a prayer for the good of humanity that combines myth with concepts from Confucianism and Buddhism exploring the virtues of generosity

China Dance School and Theatre, China

Energetic young girls show off their colorful garments and a variety of coy and proud guises in a game of show and chase, inviting the audience into their endearing and playful world

Collage Dance Ensemble, Hungary and Transylvania

Roma people and elements of their travelling culture are reflected in this dance incorporating traditional movements from Hungary and Transylvania (Romania) with spirited, contemporary styling

Las Que Son Son, Cuba

Recounting the rich story of Cuba's past and present through a *yambú*, a highly ritualized dance of fast-paced *guaguancó*, with a highly competitive *columbia* serving as the peak of three cycles of rumba dances with musical accompaniment featuring accomplished singer and percussionist, Bobi Céspedes

**Novellus Theater Program 2  
Yerba Buena Center for the Arts**

Saturday, June 23, 3pm and 8pm  
Sunday, June 24, 3pm

Dance from Appalachia (US), China, Hungary, India, Mexico, the Middle East, Peru, Tahiti, and Zimbabwe.

Tickets: \$18-\$58 <http://tickets.ybca.org> or (415) 978-2787

Ensamble Ballet Folklórico de San Francisco, Mexico

A joyous trio of dances narrates the rhythms of village life from working in the fields with dynamic unfurling skirts to a town square celebration with a percussive all-male dance on *tarimas*, or platforms

Vishwa Shanthi Dance Academy, India

In a moving bharatanatyam piece, Queen Shantala Devi's devotion and passion for dance magically give life to sculptures in an abandoned temple and completes it when her own image joins them for eternity

Barbary Coast Cloggers, Appalachia, US

A medley of boisterous Appalachian clogging captures the spirit of early American settlers' camaraderie and showmanship with a confluence of movements from the Irish jig, to English country-dances, to traditional African steps and rhythms

Shabnam, Middle East and US

Quiver, glimmer, flutter, and shimmer! An innovative baladi belly dance inspired by the undulating swells of the Red Sea features fluid, rippling movements reflecting the grace and power of the sea

Te Mana O Te Ra, Tahiti

Highlighting female strength and determination, *Vahines de Tahiti* represents how Tahitian women embody Queen Pomare IV, Madeline Moua (Queen of the *Heiva*, or Festival), Hina (goddess of love and the moon), and Pele (goddess of fire, rage, and passionate love)

Chinyakare Ensemble, Zimbabwe

This harvest dance from the Shona people of Zimbabwe teaches the importance of family and community through a cautionary tale danced while balancing seed-filled baskets on their heads, as ancestral spirits are invited to visit and share their wisdom

Chinese Performing Artists of America, China

In honor of the Year of the Dragon, black light technology highlights this symbolic dragon dance, creating a hypnotizing and powerful performance where only the dragon can be seen in the darkness, whirling and twisting ten feet off the floor

Eszterlanc Hungarian Folk Ensemble, Hungary

From the Sárköz region in southwest Hungary comes *Sárközyi Ugrós*, or Jumping Dance, showcasing joyful, high steps in a jubilant mens' stick dance paired with an all-female bottle dance, performed in intricate handmade, full-skirted costumes native to the village of Decs

De Rompe y Raja Cultural Association, Peru

Paying tribute to the legacy left in Peru by women of African descent, this dynamic Afro-Peruvian zamacueca has spawned a multitude of dance styles throughout the Americas and has been a unifying force in Latin America, mixing African, indigenous, and Spanish cultures

**Novellus Theater Program 3  
Yerba Buena Center for the Arts**

Saturday, June 30, 3pm and 8pm

Sunday, July 1, 3pm

Dance from Hawai'i, India, Indonesia, Japan, Liberia, Mexico, the Philippines, Spain, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan

Tickets: \$18-\$58 <http://tickets.ybca.org> or 415-978-2787

Abhinaya Dance Company of San Jose and San Jose Taiko, India and Japan

Synergy is created when bharatanatyam, a classical dance from Southern India, meets taiko, Japanese drumming and dance, resulting in a high-energy, lively interplay between two ancient art forms

Mariam Gaibova and Abbos Kosimov, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan

A magnificent duet between a master Uzbek percussionist playing the doira, a ceremonial frame drum, and a deeply expressive Tajik dancer demonstrates the unifying possibilities of a dancer and musician in sync

LIKHA - Pilipino Folk Ensemble, The Philippines

Dried palm leaves and bamboo poles are featured prominently in Semba, a nomadic Batak tribal ritual accompanied by live music intended to appease the spirits of nature, warding off evil and seeking blessings for hunting, planting, and harvesting

Nā Lei Hulu I Ka Wēkiu, Hawai'i

Under the direction of Kumu Hula Patrick Makuakāne, this breathtaking hula performance honors Kumulipo, the epic Hawaiian creation chant, and Māui, the sun-catcher

Gadung Kasturi, Bali, Indonesia

Flower petals cast from ceremonial bowls and the trains of beautifully patterned sarongs offer blessings and prayers in this ethereal dance inspired by traditional temple ceremony from the Balinese village of Ngis, calling for health, safety and peace throughout the world

Theatre Flamenco of San Francisco, Spain

San Francisco's second oldest dance company performs an intimate, barefoot milonga style of flamenco from Spain, with quiet, dream-like choreography utilizing the *bata de cola* (long train skirts), and exploring essential characteristics of identity and being

Ballet Folklórico Mexicano de Carlos Moreno, Mexico

Three folk dances from the southern Sotavento region of Veracruz, Mexico – *La Carretilla*, *La Iguana* and *El Zapateado* – demonstrate Spanish-influenced intricate footwork, with playful teasing amidst the competitive spirit

Diamano Coura West African Dance Company, Liberia

A rite of passage dance for Lorma girls of Liberia at the close of their schooling in the Sande Society, a school that has existed since the Crusades and maintains total secrecy from men. As the girls display skills taught to them by their elders, the cow horn and saasaa gourd call masked dancers who bless the girls before returning to their parents.

## **Festival Annual Benefit**

### **Yerba Buena Forum**

Saturday, June 30, 6:00 – 7:45pm

Tickets: \$50 <http://tickets.ybca.org> or (415) 978-2787

The Festival's annual Benefit reception filled with great food, wine, music, and a silent auction featuring many one-of-a-kind dance opportunities. All Benefit attendees are encouraged to attend the 8pm show inside the Novellus Theater.

### **Flamenco After Party at Thirsty Bear**

Sunday, July 1, 6pm

Join accomplished Festival flamenco performers at the culmination of the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Festival Season at The Flamenco Room at Thirsty Bear, located one block from the Novellus Theater. Admission is free.

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