

# SAN FRANCISCO ETHNIC DANCE FESTIVAL

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## **2016 SAN FRANCISCO ETHNIC DANCE FESTIVAL ANNOUNCED**

### **32 DANCE COMPANIES, 14 PREMIERES AND MORE THAN 400 PERFORMERS AT THE PALACE OF FINE ARTS THEATRE AND SAN FRANCISCO CITY HALL JUNE 3-19**

San Francisco, CA, March 29, 2016 – More than 400 dancers and musicians from 32 top Bay Area dance companies representing more than twenty world cultural traditions, 12 world premieres, and two North American premieres will headline the **38<sup>th</sup> annual San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival**, June 3- 19, one of the largest and most celebrated events of its kind. The 2016 Festival returns to the historic Palace of Fine Arts Theatre for three weekends of performances following a free public opening celebration and performances in San Francisco City Hall's rotunda on Friday, June 3, featuring Peruvian dance company **El Tunante**.

Three different programs will be presented at the Palace of Fine Arts June 4 & 5, June 11 & 12, and June 18 & 19, featuring dance traditions and innovations from **Bolivia, Cambodia, China, the Congo, Egypt, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Korea, Lebanon, Mexico, Nicaragua, Okinawa, the Philippines, Scotland, Senegal, South Africa, Spain, Tajikistan, and the US.**

Special features of the 2016 Festival will include a screening of **Ashley James'** award-winning film *And Still We Dance*, a 1986 documentary about the Festival, inspired by the Festival artists and a poem by **Janice Mirikitani**. Mirikitani, a renowned poet, dancer, and activist, will be honored during the Festival's opening weekend with a special performance of her poem. **Bernardo Pedere**, Filipino

dance master who directed the Filipiniana Dance Troupe, and **Valerie Watson**, Founder and Artistic Director of Alafia Dance Ensemble, will be honored with the Festival's **Malonga Casquelourd Lifetime Achievement Awards** for excellence in the field of ethnic dance and music during the following weekends.

A complete 2016 Festival schedule and list of artists may be found below. **Tickets, priced \$33-\$48, will go on sale beginning April 18. For information, visit [www.sfethnicedancefestival.org](http://www.sfethnicedancefestival.org) .**

"Get ready, is all I can say! The artists performing in this year's Festival have prepared pieces that are deeply moving and unlike what we've seen before," said San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival Executive Director **Julie Mushet**. "Perhaps this is in response to the intense political climate, but we can't wait to bring people together, once again, across cultural and socioeconomic divides, to experience the beauty and power of these diverse cultural expressions.

"I've said it before, but it is true now more than ever – these artists are my heroes for nurturing essential cultural heritage that opens hearts and lifts spirits, even in the face of racist rhetoric," Mushet continued. "They bring hope! And for this, I am deeply grateful and inspired."

The 2016 Festival will feature debuts by **AguaClara Flamenco** (Spanish Flamenco – Martinete), **Aliah Najmabadi** (Tajik Traditional), **Alma** (Egyptian Belly Dance), **Ballet Folklórico Nube de Oro** (Mexican Folkloric – Chihuahua), **Espíritu Andino** (Bolivian Traditional), **Juli Kim** (Korean Traditional), **Khaley Adouna African Dance & Drum with Domou Africa** (Senegalese Traditional – Toucouleur), **Khepri Dance Company** (Egyptian and Lebanese Belly Dance), **Nicaragua Danza, Hijos del Maíz** (Afro-Nicaraguan), **Shambhavi's International School of Kathak** (Indian Kathak), and **Tiruchitrabalam** (Indian Bharatanatyam).

World premieres of new works will be performed by **Aliah Najmabadi** (Tajik Traditional), **Alma** (Egyptian Belly Dance), **Ballet Folklórico Netzahualcoyotl** (Mexican Folkloric – Veracruz), **Ballet Folklórico Nube de Oro** (Mexican Folkloric – Chihuahua), **Charya Burt Cambodian Dance** (Cambodian Classical), **Chhandam Youth Dance Company** (Indian Kathak), **Dunsmuir Scottish Dancers** (Scottish Traditional), **Ensamble Ballet Folklórico de San Francisco** (Mexican Folkloric – Nayarit), **Harsanari** (West Javanese Jaipongan), **Jikelele Dance Theater** (South African Zulu, Xhosa, and Migrant), **Tiruchitrabalam** (Indian Bharatanatyam), and **Xpressions** (Indian Folkloric), with North American premieres from **Gamelan Sekar Jaya** (Balinese Traditional) and **Jubilee American Dance Theatre** (US Regional Social Dances).

**Full list of artists performing in the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival:**

**AguaClara Flamenco\***– Spanish Flamenco (Martinete)  
**Alafia Dance Ensemble** – Haitian Traditional  
**Aliah Najmabadi\***– Tajik Traditional  
**Alma\*+** – Egyptian Belly Dance  
**Antoine Hunter of Urban Jazz Dance Company** – American Sign Language Dance  
**Azama Honryu Seifu Ichisenkai USA Kinuko Mototake Okinawan Dance Academy** – Okinawan Classical  
**Ballet Folklórico México Danza** – Mexican Folkloric (Jalisco)  
**Ballet Folklórico Netzahualcoyotl** – Mexican Folkloric (Veracruz)  
**Ballet Folklórico Nube de Oro\*** – Mexican Folkloric (Chihuahua)  
**Ballet Lisanga Congolese Performing Arts Company** – Congolese Traditional  
**Charya Burt Cambodian Dance** – Cambodian Classical  
**Chhandam Youth Dance Company** – Indian Kathak  
**Chinese Performing Arts of America** – Chinese Classical  
**Dunsmuir Scottish Dancers** – Scottish Traditional  
**El Tunante ‡** – (Peruvian Marinera)  
**Ensembles Ballet Folklórico de San Francisco** – Mexican Folkloric (Nayarit)  
**Espíritu Andino\*** – Bolivian Traditional  
**Gamelan Sekar Jaya** – Balinese Traditional  
**Harsanari** – West Javanese Jaipongan  
**Jikelele South African Dance Theater** – South African Zulu, Xhosa, and Migrant  
**Jubilee American Dance Theatre** – US Regional Social Dances  
**Juli Kim\***– Korean Traditional  
**Khaley Adouna African Dance & Drum with Domou Africa\*** – Senegalese Traditional (Toucouleur)  
**Khepri Dance Company\*+** – Egyptian and Lebanese Belly Dance  
**LIKHA - Pilipino Folk Ensemble** – Filipino Folkloric  
**Los Danzantes de Aztlán de Fresno State** – Mexican Traditional (Veracruz)  
**Nicaragua Danza, Hijos del Maíz\***– Afro-Nicaraguan  
**Parangal Dance Company** – Filipino Traditional (Northern Luzon)  
**San Francisco Flamenco Dance Company** – Spanish Flamenco (Farruca)  
**Shambhavi's International School of Kathak\***– Indian Kathak  
**Tiruchitrambalam\***– Indian Bharatanatyam  
**Xpressions** – Indian Folkloric

\*Artists who are new to the Festival

+Performing in the Palace Lobby Belly Dance Cabaret

‡ Performing at San Francisco City Hall

Festival artists were selected from the 100 dance companies who performed during two weekends of auditions held in November of 2015 at the Palace of Fine Arts.

### **2016 San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival Schedule**

**38<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SAN FRANCISCO ETHNIC DANCE FESTIVAL OPENING EVENT**  
**San Francisco City Hall**  
**Friday, June 3 at Noon**  
**FREE**

Rotunda Dance Series performance by El Tunante (Peruvian Marinera).

The Rotunda Dance Series is presented with Dancers' Group, in partnership with San Francisco Grants for the Arts and San Francisco City Hall.

**38<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SAN FRANCISCO ETHNIC DANCE FESTIVAL WEEKEND 1**  
**Palace of Fine Arts Theatre**  
**Saturday, June 4 at 2pm & 8pm**  
**Sunday, June 5 at 4pm**  
**TICKETS: \$33-\$48, ON SALE MONDAY, APRIL 18**  
**Available online at [www.sfethnicdancefestival.org](http://www.sfethnicdancefestival.org), or by phone:**  
**415.392.4400**

***Performances by 9 Bay Area dance companies showcasing traditions from around the world, plus live world music in the theater lobby beginning 45 minutes before each show.***

Each performance this weekend opens with a special presentation of the poem "And Still We Dance" featuring Antoine Hunter of Urban Jazz Dance Company. The 8pm performance on Saturday, June 4, includes a tribute to Janice Mirikitani, the poem's author.

**Performances by:** Azama Honryu Seifu Ichisenkai USA Kinuko Mototake Okinawan Dance Academy (Okinawan Classical); Ballet Folklórico Netzahualcoyotl (Mexican Folkloric - Veracruz); Chinese Performing Arts of America (Chinese Classical); Espíritu Andino (Bolivian Traditional); Harsanari (West Javanese Jaipongan); Khaley Adouna African Dance & Drum with Domou Africa (Senegalese Traditional - Toucouleur); Parangal Dance Company (Filipino Traditional - Northern Luzon); San Francisco Flamenco Dance Company (Spanish Flamenco - Farruca); Shambhavi's International School of Kathak (Indian Kathak).

**38<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SAN FRANCISCO ETHNIC DANCE FESTIVAL WEEKEND 2**  
**Palace of Fine Arts Theatre**

**Saturday, June 11 at 2pm & 8pm**

**Sunday, June 12 at 4pm**

**TICKETS: \$33-\$48, ON SALE MONDAY, APRIL 18**

**Available online at [www.sfethnicedancefestival.org](http://www.sfethnicedancefestival.org), or by phone:  
415.392.4400**

***Performances by 10 Bay Area dance companies showcasing traditions from around the world, plus live world music in the theater lobby beginning 45 minutes before each show.***

The 8pm performance on Saturday, June 11 includes the presentation of the Festival's Malonga Casquelourd Lifetime Achievement Award to Bernardo Pedere, Artistic Director of Filipiniana Dance Troupe.

**Performances by:** AguaClara Flamenco (Spanish Flamenco - Martinete); Aliah Najmabadi (Tajik Traditional); Ballet Folklórico Nube de Oro (Mexican Folkloric - Chihuahua); Chhandam Youth Dance Company (Indian Kathak); Dunsmuir Scottish Dancers (Scottish Traditional); Ensembles Ballet Folklórico de San Francisco (Mexican Folkloric - Nayarit); Gamelan Sekar Jaya (Balinese Traditional); Jikelele South African Dance Theater (South African Zulu, Xhosa, and Migrant); LIKHA – Pilipino Folk Ensemble (Filipino Folkloric); Nicaragua Danza, Hijos del Maíz (Afro-Nicaraguan).

### **38<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SAN FRANCISCO ETHNIC DANCE FESTIVAL WEEKEND 3**

**Palace of Fine Arts Theatre**

**Saturday, June 18 at 2pm & 8pm**

**Sunday, June 19 at 4pm**

**TICKETS: \$33-\$48, ON SALE MONDAY, APRIL 18**

**Available online at [www.sfethnicedancefestival.org](http://www.sfethnicedancefestival.org), or by phone:  
415.392.4400**

***Performances by 10 Bay Area dance companies showcasing traditions from around the world, plus a special Belly Dance Cabaret in the theater lobby beginning 45 minutes before each show.***

The 8pm performance on Saturday, June 18, includes the presentation of the Festival's Malonga Casquelourd Lifetime Achievement Award to Valerie Watson, Founder and Artistic Director of Alafia Dance Ensemble.

#### **Palace Lobby Belly Dance Cabaret**

Alma (Egyptian Belly Dance)

Khepri Dance Company (Egyptian and Lebanese Belly Dance)

**Performances by:** Alafia Dance Ensemble (Haitian Traditional); Antoine Hunter of Urban Jazz Dance Company (American Sign Language Dance); Ballet Folklórico México Danza (Mexican Folkloric - Jalisco); Ballet Lisanga Congolese Performing Arts Company (Congolese Traditional); Charya Burt Cambodian Dance (Cambodian Classical); Jubilee American Dance Theatre (US Regional Social Dances); Juli Kim (Korean Traditional); Los Danzantes de Aztlán de Fresno State (Mexican Traditional – Veracruz); Tiruchitrambalam (Indian Bharatanatyam); Xpressions (Indian Folkloric).

**SPECIAL EVENT: FILM SCREENING**

**Palace of Fine Arts Theatre**

**Sunday, June 19 at 1pm**

**Tickets: \$10 (general admission)**

**Purchase online at [www.sfethnicedancefestival.org](http://www.sfethnicedancefestival.org), or by phone:  
415.392.4400**

30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary screening of "*And Still We Dance*," a one-hour documentary by award-winning filmmaker Ashley James about the *San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival* that premiered in the 1986 San Francisco International Film Festival.

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High resolution photos are available by request by contacting Scott Horton at (510) 735-9200. Images can also be downloaded at <http://www.sfethnicedancefestival.org/about/press/photos.html>, with additional photos available in late April.