

SAN FRANCISCO ETHNIC DANCE FESTIVAL

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SAN FRANCISCO ETHNIC DANCE FESTIVAL TO PREMIERE AT THE WAR MEMORIAL OPERA HOUSE IN JULY

San Francisco, CA, March 30, 2017 –The San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival—the largest and most comprehensive world dance and music event of its kind in the US—has just announced 2017 performances by 24 Bay Area-based world dance and music groups at the San Francisco War Memorial Opera House. The lineup includes six groups making their Festival debuts and the season will feature five world premieres created specifically for the 2017 Festival. Two different programs will be presented at the Opera House July 8 & 9 and July 15 & 16, and a complete list of dates and artists may be found below. Tickets are priced \$25-\$45 and may be purchased beginning May 1 at sfethnicedancefestival.org.

The co-Chairs of this year's Opera House Festival are Judy Wilbur and David Lei, and the Festival's Honorary Committee is led by David Tu. "The annual San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival is a beacon both nationally and internationally for inspiring cross-cultural experiences by local artists sustaining the world's artist legacy," explains the Festival's Executive Director Julie Mushet. "The San Francisco Bay Area is a vibrant and innovative crossroads for intangible world cultural traditions in one of the country's most diverse locales, and we are thrilled to broaden the perspective of great dance and music on the Opera House stage, home of some of the world's most prominent and enduring forms of performing arts."

The dancers of the 2017 San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival will be joined by some of the Bay Area's most accomplished and respected musicians, including percussionist John Santos and tabla master Zakir Hussain, who said, "I am looking forward to being a part of the San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival at this historic moment as it comes to the Opera House for the first time. This unique and groundbreaking festival, a jewel among the Bay Area's cultural treasure trove, continues to make San Francisco the center for world dance and music. It is a great honor for me to play with Antonia Minnecola for the 2017 San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival."

The Festival's Malonga Casquelourd Lifetime Achievement Award for excellence in the field of ethnic dance and music will be presented to Naomi Diouf, Artistic Director of Diamano Coura West African Dance Company, during this year's Festival.

Artists for 2017 include:

The Academy of Danse Libre – European Social Dances
Ballet Afsaneh – Persian-Iranian Contemporary
Ballet Folklórico México Danza – Mexican Folkloric
BITEZO BIA KONGO* – Congolese Traditional
Fogo Na Roupas Performing Company – Brazilian Folkloric (Maracatu)
De Rompe y Raja Cultural Association – Afro-Peruvian
Gamelan Sekar Jaya ± – Balinese Jegog
Gurus of Dance, an Aditya Patel Company – Indian Bollywood
John Santos Sextet + Alayo Dance Company* – Cuban Contemporary Folkloric
Leung's White Crane Lion & Dragon Dance ± – Chinese Lion Dance
LIKHA - Pilipino Folk Ensemble – Filipino Folkloric (Mandayan and Tboli)
Māhealani Uchiyama – Zimbabwean Mbira
Nā Lei Hulu I Ka Wēkiu – Hawaiian Hula
Natya at Berkeley* – Indian Bharatanatyam
San Francisco Awakko Ren* – Japanese Traditional (Awa Odori)
Te Mana O Te Ra – Tahitian Ote'a
Theatre Flamenco + La Tania – Spanish Flamenco
Vinic-Kay (Le Gente y El Canto) ± – Mexican Folkloric
YaoYong Dance – Chinese Folkloric (Mongolia)
Zakir Hussain + Antonia Minnecola* – Indian Kathak
Zena Carlota*± – West African Kora

*Denotes artists who are new to the Festival

±Denotes artists who are performing pre-show at the Opera House

There will be World Premiere performances by Ballet Afsaneh, BITEZO BIA KONGO, De Rompe y Raja Cultural Association, John Santos Sextet + Alayo Dance Company, and Te Mana O Te Ra.

2017 SAN FRANCISCO ETHNIC DANCE FESTIVAL OPERA HOUSE SCHEDULE

Opera House Weekend One

Saturday, July 8 at 8pm

Sunday, July 9 at 2pm

TICKETS: \$25-\$45, ON SALE MONDAY, MAY 1, at sfethnicedancefestival.org,

or by calling City Box Office: 415.392.4400

Performances by 12 Bay Area dance and music ensembles showcasing traditions from around the world.

Includes pre-show performances by Leung's White Crane Lion and Dragon Dance Association and Vinic-Kay (La Gente y El Canto)

Performances by: The Academy of Danse Libre (European Social Dances); De Rompe y Raja Cultural Association (Afro-Peruvian); Fogo Na Roupa Performing Company (Brazilian Folkloric—Maracatu); John Santos Sextet + Alayo Dance Company (Cuban Contemporary Folkloric); LIKHA - Pilipino Folk Ensemble (Filipino Folkloric—Mandayan and Tboli); Nā Lei Hulu I Ka Wēkiu (Hawaiian Hula); San Francisco Awakko Ren (Japanese Traditional—Awa Odori); Zakir Hussain + Antonia Minnecola (Indian Kathak).

Opera House Weekend Two

Saturday, July 15 at 8pm

Sunday, July 16 at 2pm

TICKETS: \$25-\$45, ON SALE MONDAY, MAY 1, at sfethnicdancefestival.org, or by calling City Box Office: 415.392.4400

Performances by 12 Bay Area dance and music ensembles showcasing traditions from around the world.

Includes pre-show performances by Gamelan Sekar Jaya and Zena Carlota.

Performances by: Ballet Afsaneh (Persian-Iranian Contemporary); Ballet Folklórico México Danza (Mexican Folkloric); BITEZO BIA KONGO (Congolese Traditional); Gurus of Dance, an Aditya Patel Company (Indian Bollywood); Māhealani Uchiyama (Zimbabwean Mbira); Natya at Berkeley (Indian Bharatanatyam); Te Mana O Te Ra (Tahitian Ote'a); Theatre Flamenco + La Tania (Spanish Flamenco); YaoYong Dance (Chinese Folkloric—Mongolian); Zena Carlota (West African Kora).

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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://worldartswest.org/about/press/photos.html>