

[East Bay Express, June 8, 2011 \(page 26-27\)](#)

PICKS

Ethnic Dance Festival

A jewel of Bay Area dance, the internationally renowned **San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival** celebrates our panoply of cultures, from Yup'ik Eskimo to Cambodian to Persian. Kicking off its 33rd year, the festival brings a world of dance to **Zellerbach Hall** (Bancroft Way at Dana St., Berkeley) on Saturday and Sunday, June 11-12. From Alameda County, **Shabnam Dance Company** performs sophisticated belly dance, the **African Heritage Ensemble** honors drumming and dance from Benin and Ghana, and **Ballet Folklórico Mexico Danza** shares the exuberant colors and rhythms of Veracruz, while Richmond's **Gadung Kasturi** presents Balinese blessing dances. Joining from around the bay are **Abhinaya** (Indian *bharatanatyam*), **Parangal Dance Company** (Philippine *sinalimba*), **Theatre Flamenco of San Francisco**, and the glorious **Hui Tama Nui**, with nearly 100 artists performing the legend of Ta'aroa, the Tahitian god of creation. Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 3 p.m. \$18-\$58. 510-642-9988 or SFEthnicDanceFestival.org

- *Claudia Bauer*