**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