

MEDIA CONTACT:

Scott Horton Communications

510-735-9200

[scott@worldartswest.org](mailto:scott@worldartswest.org) or [bluescott260@hotmail.com](mailto:bluescott260@hotmail.com)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **33rd San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival**

**June 3; 11 & 12; 18 & 19; 24, 25 & 26; and July 1, 2 & 3**

### **TICKETS GO ON SALE APRIL 19**

**50 Companies, 750 World Dance & Music Artists, 15 World Premieres  
Special Events Mark Return of Native Ohlone Peoples to SF  
Five Weekends of Events in San Francisco & Berkeley  
New Participatory Events**

San Francisco, CA, March 31, 2011 —Tickets go on sale Tuesday, April 19, at [www.sfethnicdancefestival.org](http://www.sfethnicdancefestival.org) for the 2011 **San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival**, scheduled for June 3-July 3. The 2011 Festival features more performances over five weekends, a record 50 Northern California dance companies representing cultures from around the world, including 12 debuts, 15 world premieres, new venues in San Francisco and Berkeley, new participatory events, special events celebrating the return of the native Ohlone peoples to San Francisco, a June 25 festival benefit evening and more. Building on its past success as the most comprehensive and highly regarded festival of its kind, and responding to both dance community and public demand, the Festival's presentation reflects the trajectory and the growth of world dance and music in Northern California. Historically, many performances sell out well in advance. 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 in the attachment at the end of this release.]

"Moving to new venues on both sides of the Bay allows us the opportunity to listen to our artists and our audiences, who wanted more depth and involvement with each other," say Julie Mushet, Festival Executive Director. "This year's Festival includes exciting events that utilize the strengths of the new venues while adding participatory events to our "classic" Festival programming. This year, we invite everyone to join in the dancing, both at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Forum and Yerba Buena Gardens events."

#### **June 25 Festival Benefit Evening**

On Saturday, June 25, a special evening to benefit the San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival will begin at 7 pm at YBCA's Novellus Theater, followed by a reception and participatory event at 9:30 pm in the YBCA Forum. The evening features fourteen dance companies and special guest appearances by beloved Bay Area artists, a champagne and artisanal chocolate reception, and the chance to win an impressive selection of 52 bottles of fine wine

from around the world. Tickets for the benefit are priced at \$50-\$125, with the \$125 ticket including an hors d'oeuvres reception from top Bay Area restaurants from 6-7pm.

The Novellus Theater performance features Chuna McIntyre of Nunamta Yup'ik Eskimo Singers and Dancers (Yup'ik Eskimo), Los Lupeños de San José (Mexican), Barangay Dance Company (Filipino), Kyoungil Ong (Korean), Nimely Pan African Dance Company (Liberian), Murphy Irish Dance Company (Irish), Collage Dance Ensemble (Eastern European), Natyalaya (Indian), OREET (Egyptian) and Te Mana O Te Ra (Tahitian).

The YBCA Forum participatory event, entitled Pasi3n, will offer a sultry evening of dance that turns up the heat, featuring performances by the following companies, with plenty of opportunities for the audience to get up and join the dancing late into the evening: El Tunante (Peruvian), Navarette x Kajiyama Dance Theater (Argentine), Ballet Pampa Argentina Folk Dance (Argentine), and Melissa Cruz (Spanish).

### **Festival Tickets and More Information**

Tickets to the 2011 San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival are \$18-\$58 and go ON SALE BEGINNING APRIL 19 online at [www.sfethnicedancefestival.org](http://www.sfethnicedancefestival.org). Family Matinees offer 50% discounts to children age 12 and under, and group discounts are also available. For complete ticketing information and a full line-up of performance details, visit [www.sfethnicedancefestival.org](http://www.sfethnicedancefestival.org) or call (415) 474-3914.

###

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 10 at <http://www.sfethnicedancefestival.org/about/press/photos.html>

## **2011 San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival Schedule**

Note: Unless otherwise indicated, all performances are the "classic" stage presentations to which Festival audiences have become accustomed. New this year, are the Participatory Events, designed to get audiences onto the dance floor. Four companies representing different cultural traditions will perform, followed by instruction by two companies (indicated by \*).

For complete information about the 2011 San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival, visit [www.sfethnicedancefestival.org](http://www.sfethnicedancefestival.org).

### **June 3—San Francisco**

**Friday, June 3, at 12 pm— San Francisco City Hall Rotunda**

Opening Ceremony featuring the Rumsen Ohlone Tribe, presentation of the annual Malonga Casquelourd Lifetime Achievement Award to the tribe's chairman Tony Cerda, and performances by the tribe's Humaya Singers and Dancers.

## **June 11 & 12—Berkeley**

**Saturday, June 11, at 8 pm— Zellerbach Hall**

**Sunday, June 12, at 3 pm— Zellerbach Hall**

Gadung Kasturi Balinese Dance and Music (Balinese), Shabnam Dance Company (Middle Eastern), African Heritage Ensemble (West African), Parangal Dance Company (Filipino), Abhinaya Dance Company of San Jose and San Jose Taiko (Indian & Japanese), Theatre Flamenco of San Francisco (Spanish), Ballet Folklórico Mexico Danza (Mexican), Hui Tama Nui (Tahitian)

## **June 18 & 19—San Francisco**

**Saturday, June 18, Noon-11 pm—YBCA Forum & 5 - 11 pm—Yerba Buena Gardens**

PARTICIPATORY EVENT: "California Indian Big Time Gathering"— A day honoring the Ohlone, including performances, rituals, ceremonies and craft presentations hosted by the Rumsen Ohlone Tribe. Native American Tribal Song and Dance performances by Elem Indian Colony Tribe, Pit River Maidu Tribe, Winnemum Wintu Tribe, Shingle Springs Miwok Tribe, Stewarts Point Kashaya Band of Pomo, and Manchester Pomo Tribe. Event is in partnership with the Ohlone Profiles Project, and the gardens programming is in association with the Yerba Buena Gardens Festival.

This day of Native American ceremony and celebration occurs concurrently with Yerba Buena Gardens' Native Contemporary Arts Festival from Noon to 3 pm. The public is invited to come, enjoy and participate in all these events and make a day of it. Admission free.

**Sunday, June 19, at 1 pm—YBCA Forum**

PARTICIPATORY EVENT: "Poetry in Motion"— An afternoon of dance interspersed with readings of Rumi, Ikkyu, and other transcendent poets, with \*Gamelan Sekar Jaya (Balinese) Jenny Fong (Chinese), Kiyonomoto Ryu USA (Japanese), and \*Ballet Afsaneh (Iranian Classical).

## **June 24-26—San Francisco**

**Friday, June 24, at 8 pm— YBCA Novellus Theater**

**Saturday, June 25, at 2 pm & 7 pm— YBCA Novellus Theater**

**Sunday, June 26, at 3 pm— YBCA Novellus Theater**

Chuna McIntyre of Nunamta Yup'ik Eskimo Singers and Dancers (Yup'ik Eskimo), Los Lupeños de San José (Mexican), Barangay Dance Company (Filipino), Kyoungil Ong (Korean), Nimely Pan African Dance Company (Liberian), Murphy Irish Dance Company (Irish), Collage Dance Ensemble (Eastern European), Natyalaya (Indian), OREET (Egyptian), Te Mana O Te Ra (Tahitian)

**Saturday, June 25, at 3 pm— YBCA Forum**

PARTICIPATORY EVENT: "Solstice Celebration"— An afternoon of summer solstice festivities with \*Lowiczanie Polish Folk Ensemble of San Francisco (Polish), Leap of Faith Longsword (English), Centeotl Grupo de Danza y Baile Mexican (Mexican), and \*Jubilee American Dance Theatre (USA).

**Saturday, June 25, at 9:30 pm— YBCA Forum**

PARTICIPATORY EVENT: "Pasión"— A sultry evening of dance that turns up the heat with El Tunante (Peruvian), Navarette x Kajiya Dance Theater (Argentine), \*Ballet Pampa Argentina Folk Dance (Argentine), and Melissa Cruz (Spanish).

**Sunday, June 26, at 1 pm— YBCA Forum**

PARTICIPATORY EVENT: "Rising Up"— Strength and empowerment take center stage with Ballet Folklórico Anáhuac (Mexican), \*LIKHA - Pilipino Folk Ensemble (Pilipino), ABADÁ - Capoeira San Francisco (Brazilian), and \*EMESÈ: Messengers of the African Diaspora (Afro-Cuban and Afro-Brazilian).

**July 1-3—San Francisco**

**Friday, July 1, at 8 pm— YBCA Novellus Theater**

**Saturday, July 2, at 3 pm— YBCA Novellus Theater**

**Saturday, July 2, at 8 pm— YBCA Novellus Theater**

**Sunday, July 3, at 3 pm— YBCA Novellus Theater**

Ohlone Tribal Dance (Rumsen Ohlone Tribe, Native American), Rara Tou Limen (Haitian), Caminos Flamencos (Spanish), Yang Yang Dance (Chinese), Halau o Keikiali'i (Hawaiian), De Rompe y Raja Cultural Association (Afro-Peruvian), Charya Burt Cambodian Dance (Cambodian), Chinyakare Ensemble (Zimbabwean), Bal Anat (Egyptian), Compañía Mazatlán Bellas Artes (Mexican)

###