

SAN FRANCISCO ETHNIC DANCE FESTIVAL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SAN FRANCISCO ETHNIC DANCE FESTIVAL RETURNS TO BERKELEY'S ZELLERBACH HALL FOR 41ST ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF WORLD DANCE AND MUSIC IN JULY

28 DANCE AND MUSIC GROUPS PERFORM OVER TWO WEEKENDS AT ZELLERBACH HALL INCLUDING NINE NEW GROUPS AND EIGHT WORLD PREMIERES

San Francisco, CA, May 3, 2019 – Twenty-eight world dance and music groups composed of nearly five hundred local artists will take the stage for the 41st annual **San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival**—the largest, longest-running and most comprehensive event of its kind in North America. In association with **Cal Performances**, the San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival will return to UC Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall in July. Two different programs will be presented Saturday and Sunday, July 6 and 7, at 3 pm and Saturday and Sunday, July 13 and 14, at 3 pm. Nine groups of artists will make their Festival debuts and the season will feature eight world premieres. A complete list of dates and artists may be found below. Tickets are priced \$28-\$78 and go on sale beginning May 21 at sfethnicdancefestival.org.

Festival Co-Artistic Directors **Patrick Makuakāne, Latanya d. Tigner**, and **Māhealani Uchiyama** have announced the 2019 Festival lineup, which will feature Bay Area-based groups and artists representing dance and music from **China, Egypt, India, Japan, Lebanon, Liberia, Mexico, Peru, the Philippines, Republic of Congo, Tahiti, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, the US, Venezuela, and West Africa**. The Festival's 2019 **Malonga Casquelourd Lifetime**

Achievement Award will honor **Ron Wallace**, Artistic Director of Dunsmuir Scottish Dancers, who has taught Scottish dance in the Bay Area and around the world for five decades, and **RJ Muna**, whose extraordinary photos of Festival artists have become a hallmark of the Festival since 2006. The Festival's 2019 Community Leadership Award will be presented to **David Lei**, for his exemplary work with countless arts and community-based organizations in San Francisco.

"It is a great honor to be presenting this year's talented dancers and musicians on our Festival stage," said the Festival's Executive Director, **Julie Mushet**, "They are the heart and soul of the Bay Area and their breathtaking artistry is both deeply inspiring and uplifting. For two weeks this summer, Zellerbach Hall will become a beacon for the beauty and power of our diversity, showcasing the finest world dance and music artists from all over the Bay Area. On one stage, audiences will experience dance and music from throughout the world and the Festival has become known as a world music festival as much as it is a world dance festival!"

2019 San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival Artists

Afro Urban Society *+ Bearettes *- Pan-Afro Urban Drumline and HBCU-Style Majorette Dance

Awon Ohun Omnira (Voices of Freedom) * - African-American Ritual

Ballet Folklórico Nube de Oro - Mexican Folkloric (Durango)

Chitresh Das Institute - Indian Kathak

Cunamacué - Afro-Peruvian

Diamano Coura West African Dance Company - Liberian Traditional

Feng Ye Dance Studio - Chinese Classical

Gâta Bantu - Congolese Traditional

Guru Shradha + Antara Asthaayi Dance + Navia Dance Academy * - Indian Odissi, Kathak, and Bharatanatyam

Jackeline Rago * - Venezuelan Folk Music

Jubilee American Dance Theatre - Cajun Country Social Dances

Kanyon Sayers-Roods - Ohlone Welcome and Blessing

Kiazi Malonga - Congolese Traditional

Kohaku + Shiho Tendou* - Japanese Traditional

L'Emir Hassan Harfouche * + Georges Lammam Ensemble - Lebanese Dabke

Los Lupeños de San José - Mexican Folkloric (Mestizo)

Nicole Maria* + Georges Lammam Ensemble - Egyptian Belly Dance

O D K * - Afro-Pop

Parangal Dance Company - Philippine Folkloric (Yakan)

San Francisco Taiko Dojo - Japanese Taiko

Tara Catherine Pandeya + Abbos Kosimov - Contemporary Tajik and Uzbek Shashmaqom

Te Mana O Te Ra - Tahitian 'Ōte'a

*Artists new to the Festival

World Premiere works will be presented by Ballet Folklórico Nube de Oro (Mexican Folkloric-Durango), Cunamacué (Afro-Peruvian), Gâta Bantu (Congolese Traditional), Guru Shradha + Antara Asthaayi Dance + Navia Dance Academy (Indian Odissi, Kathak, and Bharatanatyam), Los Lupeños de San José (Mexican Folkloric-Mestizo), Nicole Maria + Georges Lammam Ensemble (Egyptian Belly Dance), Parangal Dance Company (Philippine Folkloric-Yakan), and Tara Catherine Pandeya + Abbos Kosimov (Contemporary Tajik and Uzbek Shashmaqom).

2019 SAN FRANCISCO ETHNIC DANCE FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

Zellerbach Hall Weekend One

Saturday, July 6, at 3pm / Sunday, July 7, at 3pm

TICKETS: \$28 - \$78

On sale Tuesday, May 21, online at sfethnicedancefestival.org or by phone at 510.642.9988

Performances by 15 Bay Area dance and music ensembles showcasing traditions from around the world.

Afro Urban Society + Bearettes – Pan-Afro Urban Drumline and HBCU-Style Majorette Dance

Chitresh Das Institute - Indian Kathak

Gâta Bantu - Congolese Traditional

Jubilee American Dance Theatre - Cajun Country Social Dances

Kanyon Sayers-Roods – Ohlone Welcome and Blessing

Kiazi Malonga – Congolese Traditional

Kohaku + Shiho Tendou - Japanese Traditional

L'Emir Hassan Harfouche + Georges Lammam Ensemble - Lebanese Dabke

Los Lupeños de San José - Mexican Folkloric (Mestizo)

Nicole Maria + Georges Lammam Ensemble - Egyptian Belly Dance

O D K - Afro-Pop

San Francisco Taiko Dojo - Japanese Taiko

Zellerbach Hall Weekend Two

Saturday, July 13, at 3pm / Sunday, July 14, at 3pm

TICKETS: \$28 - \$78

On sale Tuesday, May 21, online at sfethnicedancefestival.org or by phone at 510.642.9988.

Performances by 13 Bay Area dance and music ensembles showcasing traditions from around the world.

Awon Ohun Omnira (Voices of Freedom) – African-American Ritual

Ballet Folklórico Nube de Oro - Mexican Folkloric (Durango)

Cunamacué - Afro-Peruvian

Diamano Coura West African Dance Company - Liberian Traditional
Feng Ye Dance Studio - Chinese Classical
Guru Shradha + Antara Asthaayi Dance + Navia Dance Academy - Indian
Odissi, Kathak, & Bharatanatyam
Jackeline Rago – Venezuelan Folk Music
Parangal Dance Company - Philippine Folkloric (Yakan)
Tara Catherine Pandeya + Abbos Kosimov – Contemporary Tajik and Uzbek
Shashmaqom
Te Mana O Te Ra - Tahitian 'Ōte'a

Festival artists are selected by annual auditions. For the 2019 Festival, 70 dance companies and soloists auditioned in November 2018 before the Festival Co-Artistic Directors, a panel of dance experts, and an audience of thousands of dance enthusiasts and Bay Area families. The Artistic Directors made the final selection of the Festival lineup after consulting with the panelists, who are noted for their dance backgrounds, cultural expertise, and reputations in the field. This year's panelists were **Blanche Brown, Shambhavi Dandekar, Malia DeFelice, Smita Singh, Dr. Victor Torres, Ron Wallace, and Shannon Yip**. Their bios, along with those of the Festival Artistic Directors, can be found at worldartswest.org/main/artdirectors.asp.

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High-resolution photos of this year's artists are available here <http://photos.shcommunications.org/GalleryThumbnails.aspx?gallery=4862708> or by contacting Scott Horton at bluescott260@hotmail.com.