

# DANCE

## TOURING ARTIST PERFORMANCES

### Abalaye African Dance Ensemble

*Abalaye* means “remember your ancestors” in the Yoruba language of Nigeria, and this company of dynamic dancers and musicians expertly weave this important theme throughout its program. Abalaye African Dance Ensemble’s performance will expose the audience to the cultures of the Mandingo, Jola, Wolof and Serer peoples of Senegal, Guinea and Mali as well as the Yoruba people of Nigeria. Students will enjoy the energetic music, dances and colorful costumes as the performers explain the significance of each dance and instruments. Students will learn to greet each other and sing in the Mandingo language. Audience participation is strongly encouraged.

### Ballet Folklórico do Brasil

The exuberant Afro-Brazilian performing ensemble Ballet Folklórico Do Brasil bridges the ancient and urban worlds through movement and sound. Its creative tools are breathtaking ritual dance, polyrhythmic percussion and powerfully soothing vocals. Directed by Mestre Amen Santo of Bahia, the company involves audiences in a celebration of Brazil’s rich and diverse cultural heritage. Each performance traces an evolving culture from its African origin to its transformation in the New World. From *Capoeira* martial arts to the mystical *Candomble* and the playful samba, Do Brasil’s performances have inspired audiences all over the globe. Sites must have smooth wooden or linoleum stage floor to book this rigorous dance ensemble.

### Ballet Folklórico & Marimba Band Righetti High School

The Ballet Folklórico & Marimba Band from Righetti High School features 12 couples who dance in authentic costumes. Selections come from several of Mexico’s most popular dance regions: Jalisco, Veracruz, Chihuahua and Nuevo Leon. The Marimba Band plays a variety of Mexican and Latin American songs, from romantic ballads to upbeat *cumbias* and *guajiras*. The group emphasizes the beauty and value of preserving traditional music and dance and shares these aspects of Mexican and Latino cultures with audiences of all ethnic backgrounds. Two to four students play

marimbas while accompanied by others on electric and bass guitars, trumpet, flute, clarinet, drums, timbales, congas and maracas. Reduced fee for Fall bookings.

### Ballet Santa Barbara

Ballet Santa Barbara is a critically acclaimed professional ballet company that presents distinguished performances of original ballets to school children, featuring live music. We enjoy performing for kids in up-close and informal settings such as gymnasiums or other large multi-purpose spaces. A pre and post performance question and answer segment is included as a way to engage the students in the creative process between choreographer and composer, and to satisfy kids’ curiosity about what it takes to become a dancer.

*Wisperfal* is a thirty-minute original ballet featuring live music and highly skilled classical dancers. Choreographer, Carrie Diamond and composer/pianist, Eric Valinsky collaborated to create a unique ballet that vividly expresses a variety of the moods, colors and feelings of the seasons. The ballet takes its inspiration from Antonio Vivaldi’s, “The Four Seasons”.

*Four Dances for Ballet Dancers* with these four original works, students will be exposed to a broad range of ballet styles. The performance features live music including jazz and classical pieces played by composer, Eric Valinsky. Surprising, delightful, and stimulating, with this performance students’ will learn that ballet can be both thought provoking and entertaining.

*Moving to Learn* is our educational outreach program. Through our residencies, we provide elementary school students with critical developmental dance instruction that supports their academic achievement, increases cognitive skills and provides a base for lifelong learning in the arts. The inquiry-based curriculum promotes critical thinking and creative exploration while simultaneously teaching physical discipline, awareness of personal space, and the fundamentals of technique and performance.

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## Capoeira Sul da Bahia

Capoeira, once a creative adaptation to the brutal slave trades during the 16th century by captive Africans, has now become a unique art form that synthesizes martial arts, dance and song into an enchanting demonstration of the potentials of the human body and spirit. Brazilian native Daniel Yoshimi (Professor Chin) founded Capoeira Sul da Bahia studio in 2000 to teach this art form to youngsters and adults along the Central Coast.

Capoeira Sul da Bahia's high energy and captivating performance with live music is divided into three parts. The first segment delves into the history of Capoeira, introducing students to the origins and aspects of the art form. Dancers take instruments and song for the second segment to demonstrate movements, interact in a playful game and showcase the African stick dance, *Maculele*. Students join Professor Chin and his instructors in the last segment for a 15-minute class on Capoeira's basic movements.

## Do Jump Movement Theater

Do Jump Movement Theater presents the *Low-Tech/No-Tech Show*. Using music that ranges from a Brandenburg concerto to ragtime piano to Romanian folk tunes, this unusual performance takes its audiences on a journey to a number of unexpected settings. Ordinary furniture pieces become springboards and hands declare independence from their owners. Human bodies evolve into non-organic shapes and crawl across the stage or swing through the air. *Low-Tech/No-Tech* is certain to engage and inspire the audience.

## Dr. Schaffer & Mr. Stern Dance Ensemble

For 13 years, the Dr. Schaffer and Mr. Stern Dance Ensemble has pioneered the linking of dance with mathematics, science and far-ranging ideas. The company has published a 132-page book of exploratory classroom activities connecting dance and mathematics.

*The Day the Numbers Disappeared* starts with the zany premise, "What if we had no numbers?" A quartet tells the story by dancing shapes with PVC pipe, using

ancient Japanese puzzle pieces for a poem about imaginative number names and creating rhythmic music with water bottles. With the audience's help, the performers solve puzzles, create shapes and rhythms. In *Through the Loop, In Search of the Perfect Square*, a trio blends dance, music, geometry and string figures from around the world as it tries to discover how to reassemble an ancient Chinese tangram square. Creating geometric shapes with rope, the dancers engage the audience in creative problem solving and surprising play with shapes.

## Francisco Martinez Dancetheatre

The Francisco Martinez Dancetheatre performs the choreography of artistic director Francisco Martinez. Contemporary and classical ballet, in dramatic, lyric and comic moods, blend with traditional modern dance elements to form the core of the Francisco Martinez Dancetheatre style. Martinez sets his work to a wide range of musical choices — classical, jazz, Big Band, country ballads and modern scores. The result is a kaleidoscope of ideas, moods and colors, "contemporary classicism...a creative adventure for anyone in it or watching it."

*American Collage* is a tribute to unique American music, offering a spectrum of styles that depict the heritage and spirit of America. The music of Scott Joplin, George and Ira Gershwin, Don Gibson and Aaron Copland inspire a quartet of dances. The dances journey through an American landscape: musical theater, pre-war dance styles of the speakeasy and Charleston era, compelling rhythms of country/western music and finally, the pure line of dance collaborating with the pure line of a Shaker hymn.

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### Gypsy Folk Ensemble

The Gypsy Folk Ensemble is an ethnic dance company which presents folk dances in six separate shows including narration and audience participation.

*Dances from around the World* concentrates on dance in the everyday life of Romania, Greece and the Middle East.

*Pictures from the Past* explores through dance the contributions made by Italian, Irish and German immigrants to American culture.

*Echoes of Polynesia* shows the influence of environment on dance and music in Hawaii, New Zealand and Tahiti.

*Roots of American Dance* traces the origins of folk dance in New England, Cajun Louisiana and Texas.

*Mexican Mosaic* looks at the rich dance culture of Mexico while the *International Holidays* show celebrates Christmas, La Posada, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa.

### Kahurangi Maori Dance Theatre of New Zealand

Kahurangi, New Zealand's only full-time professional Maori dance theater, takes audience on a whirlwind journey to Polynesia with *People of the Pacific*, a 45- to 60-minute foray into music and dance cultures of the islands of the South Pacific. Dynamic, entertaining and highly educational, this program will be something audiences will remember for years to come. Available February 21–29, 2012, and inquire for other dates.

### Khadra International Dance Theatre

This colorful and exciting performance by Khadra International Dance Theatre teaches students about the history, costumes, traditions, music and dance of many cultures. Khadra generally presents a combination of Eastern European and North and South American dances with narration, audience participation and a question-and-answer period.

### Korean Classical Music & Dance Company

From the thundering rhythms of the *Buk-Chum* (Drum Dance) to the graceful motion of the *Hwa Kwan Moo* (Flower Crown Dance) and the *Buchae-Chum* (Fan Dance), this ensemble brings the intriguing, beautiful dance and music of Korea to you. Perfect for students who want to learn more about the cultures and art forms of this fascinating country. Founded in 1973 under the artistic direction of Dr. Dongsuk Kim, a UCLA professor, this Southern California-based company—the only one of its kind in the United States—is internationally recognized for the authenticity and purity of its dancing style.

The company's repertoire also includes the Chang-go Chum (Hour Glass Drum Dance), an acrobatic folk dance, and folk songs performed with the kayagum, a 12-stringed instrument.

### Lily Cai - Chinese Dance

A native of Shanghai and former principal dancer with the Shanghai Opera House, Lily Cai is a prominent member of the Bay Area's dance community. Cai has won awards from the California Dance Educators Association, Asian American Arts Foundation, Bay Area Fund for Dance, San Francisco Arts Commission, Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Council, Rockefeller Foundation and Creative Work Fund. She has held several fellowships including the 2000 Irvine Fellow in Dance and the National Endowment for the Arts' Choreographer's Fellowship and has participated in the California Arts Council's Artist-in-Residence Program for nine years.

In *Classical and Folk Dances from China*, Lily brings the movement of China alive in a captivating, truly unique dance presentation—sharing her enthusiasm for Chinese culture, history and people. She uses the traditional costumes of the Tang and Qing dynasties, colorful folk dance ribbons and fans, big head masks and dangerous swords in this 45-minute presentation. She covers the regional differences, cultural differences and choreographic structures of several dances. Several students will be invited onstage to participate.

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## Los Angeles Choreographers & Dancers

Louise Reichlin & Dancers, of the Los Angeles Choreographers & Dancers, specializes in educational performances and workshops. The company has performed more than 2,500 shows since 1980 as part of the Los Angeles Unified School District's Intergroup Cultural Awareness Program (ICAP) and the Arts Community Partnership Network (ACPN). Its sponsors include the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Mark Taper Auditorium, Young Audience's "Share the World" project, Orange County Performing Arts Center and Las Vegas Cultural Affairs. The company has performed at the Los Angeles Zoo, XXIII Olympics and in 22 states, Mexico and Taipei. It receives repeated funding from the California Arts Council, Los Angeles County Arts Commission and the Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Youth Arts & Education. All dances support the current State of California Content Standards.

In *Dance! with LA Choreographers & Dancers*, students learn how to turn ordinary moves into dance by using the elements of space, time and energy. *The Tennis Dances* expands this, as well as how dance expresses moods, atmospheres and feelings. The company teaches words and gestures to a dance combining Japanese, Israeli and West African cultures, and students join the dancers from their seats to perform it. Some join the company onstage for the closing *Let's All Dance to a Bluegrass Beat*.

In *Mix and Match! with the Patchwork Girl of Oz*, schools may elect to mix selections of Reichlin's newest work, a piece based on L. Frank Baum's book, with the participatory *Let's All Dance to a Bluegrass Beat*, emphasizing the elements of dance. This show may also be combined with elements of the multicultural dance described above or selections from the acclaimed work, *The Tennis Dance*.

*The Better to Bite You With* is an interactive dance multimedia program based on the universal tale "Little Red Riding Hood." Turning to the theme of teeth, it is woven with technology, narration, music ranging from Dixieland to vaudeville to Tchaikovsky, King Crimson, and of course dance. Along with the strong dance/arts connection, students learn about dental hygiene and tooth care. The interactive work was inspired by fascinating new technology in dental x-rays, used in the

presentation, that create instant colorful digital representations of teeth, gums and bones.

## Lula Washington Dance Theatre

*Reflections in Black* offers a sampling of African-American culture and history by one of the leading African American dance companies in the West. Lula Washington Dance Theatre takes audiences on a journey from West Africa to contemporary American society, stopping along the way in the slave period, gospel churches, blues honky tonks and the fiery '60s civil rights struggle. Readings from the legendary poet, Langston Hughes, complement excerpts performed from the high-energy dance creations of Lula Washington and the classic works of dance pioneer Donald McKayle. The show is full of beautiful dancing and rich in culture and historical insight. It is educational, inspirational and entertaining.

## Mary Donnelly - World Dance Company

Mary Donnelly's World Dance Company of San Luis Obispo County has entertained students from preschools to universities. It has performed at the grand openings of the SLO Performing Arts Center and the Clark Center for the Performing Arts. A member of the Middle Eastern Culture and Dance Association and the SLO County Arts Council, the company specializes in fund-raisers for international humanitarian organizations. Mary has taught third grade since 1981 and in June 2002, she received the *Arts Honors Award* from the San Luis Obispo Arts Council.

The company's Tribal Mundo Dancers and musicians perform folkloric and tribal-style Middle Eastern dances from North Africa, India and the Middle East. Dancers wear modest and elaborate handcrafted costumes. Throughout each performance, Donnelly presents the history of the dance form and the rhythms of the music.

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### Motion Theatre Dance Company

Motion Theatre Dance Company is a versatile group of dancers and actors who weave modern dance, physical theater, text and music with educational themes and audience participation into a riveting performance. This imaginative troupe brings poetry and stories to life through movement while making the plays more comprehensible and enjoyable for all ages.

*King Lear to Abbey Road* is a whimsical tribute to Britain's Shakespeare and the Beatles. This work—a performance featuring a fool, court dances, gestures, stick fighting and sibling rivalry—juxtaposes one man's father-daughter relationship and his battle with cancer to the Bard's "King Lear." *Abbey Road* ends with an upbeat dance to the Beatles. (grades 9–12)

### PASACAT - Philippine Performing Arts Company

Discover the Philippines through music, song and dance. Established in 1970 and based in San Diego County, PASACAT is an internationally recognized, traditional Philippine performing arts company. The company's presentation provides a glimpse of the Spanish Era, the Malaysian influences of Mindanao, the ethno-linguistic groups of the Cordillera of Northern Luzon and the fun-spirited countryside. The program concludes with audience participation in the bamboo dance *Tinikling*.

### Ramya Harishankar

Established in 1985, the Arpana Dance Company has had the rare honor of performing in the U. S., Europe and India under the guidance of Ramya Harishankar, its artistic director. In her performance, *Indian Dance and Art*, Ramya shares dance and music from India. She brings precision, beauty and expression to the 2,000-year-old *Bharata Natyam*, India's renowned classical dance, which combines stage, music, poetry, colorful and ornate costumes, and dance.

### Sambahia Art & Dance Company

Through the powerful rhythms and traditional dance of Brazil, Sambahia Art and Dance Company brings history and Afro-Brazilian culture to life. With more than a decade of experience working with children and youth, Mariano Silva directs a vibrant performance filled with music, pulsating movement and audience participation. Students become immersed in a unique and uplifting world that is hard to forget through the acrobatic dance martial art of *Capoeira*, stick dance (*Maculele*), traditional instruments and song of Bahia Brazil. Each performance educates the audience on the meanings behind each dance as well as the history of musical instruments distinctive of the art.

### Santa Barbara Festival Ballet

The Santa Barbara Festival Ballet (formerly the Goleta Civic Ballet) is a pre-professional company of dancers from the Santa Barbara Ballet Center, ages 13 and older, who have committed to a rigorous schedule of ballet classes and rehearsals to develop the artistry of classical ballet technique. A lecture/demonstration designed to fit the needs of each school is offered.

From October through December, the demonstration covers the preparation of the dancer, the story and history of the *Nutcracker Ballet* and soloists who perform sequences from this traditional ballet.

From January through June, the demonstration includes the preparation of the dance, history of a classical or contemporary ballet and a performance of variations from these ballets. These variations could include *Coppelia*, *Sleeping Beauty* and *Les Sylphides*.

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## Shizumi - Exploring Arts of Japan

Shizumi Manale was born and raised in Japan. She distills more than 1,600 years of Japanese arts and culture, offering a window into the heart of the Japanese aesthetic. *Exploring the Arts of Japan* incorporates traditional and contemporary theater, dance, fans, the art of creative dance with kimono masks, Haiku poems, the art of the kimono, calligraphy, elements of a traditional tea ceremony and samurai swordsmanship. Children experience the grace, strength and humor of Japanese performing arts and learn about the cultural connections between Japan and the U.S. Shizumi has performed recently at the Kennedy Center, the Cherry Blossom Festival, the globally televised White House Millennium Project, and has instructed President Obama's daughter Sasha and her classmates. Shizumi offers workshops in each of the different elements of her performance.

## State Street Ballet

Each year State Street Ballet introduces more than 5,000 schoolchildren to live professional ballet. The company not only shows students the beauty of a ballet, but its troupe of international dancers holds a lively discussion with students. Dancers demonstrate various techniques such as how they can remain poised and perfectly still on one toe. Students participate in a dance activity, including mime and patterns of movement, and explore their own creative responses to music and rhythms. Sharing the knowledge and love of dance offers great reward to the company and is an ongoing priority. Various productions are available.

The well-loved *Cinderella* and *The Jungle Book*, chosen by artistic director Rodney Gustafson, each offer a wonderful bridge from a student's knowledge of the story to presentation of the tale in dance.

## Theatre Flamenco of San Francisco

Theatre Flamenco of San Francisco, founded in 1966 by Adela Clara, was the first U.S. company to stage full productions of Spanish dance. It remains a beacon of cultural pride, Spanish Tradition, and artistic collaboration. In 2008, longtime artistic director Miguel Santos was honored with the Isadora Duncan Dance Award and a Lifetime Achievement Award for World Arts West. Current artistic director Carola Zertuche's vision continues for the company that has performed for thousands of school children for more than 25 years.

The *Yo Soy* performance includes a guitarist, singer, and two dancers demonstrating the diversity of Spanish dance with castanets, the dresses, footwork, and history of flamenco. Students learn flamenco rhythms through *palmas* (hand clapping). This performance can be presented in English and Spanish. Touring residencies tailored for each school can include master classes and lecture/demonstrations.

## Viji Prakash & Shakti Dance Company

*Ancient Stories from India* is told through music and dance. Viji Prakash, world-renowned interpreter of *Bharatha Natyam*—the classical dance of south India—performs elaborate hand-symbol dances with facial expressions and complex feet rhythms, accompanied by the Indian drum, singing and violin. The three accompanying musicians are well known in India. Students try the movements and participate actively in the show.