



International Dance Festival Opens This Weekend

Building on the success of last year's inaugural world dance and music festival, the Peninsula International Dance Festival 2023 returns with an all-new, two-day festival this weekend, July 15 and 16, with guest artists from 21 Bay Area companies featuring over 200 dancers and musicians - resplendent in colorful costumes - performing traditional works from Bolivia, Cambodia, China, Congo, Hawaii, India, Mexico, Native America, Peru, Philippines, Spain, and the USA. An extraordinary feast for the eyes and ears, both performances will be presented at the San Mateo Performing Arts Center, 600 North Delaware Street, San Mateo.

The 2023 Festival artist roster features Amor do Samba (Brazil); Antara Asthaayi Dance (India); Azteca Dancers/Calpulli Tonalehqueh (Mexico); Ballet Folklórico Mexicano de Carlos Moreno (Mexico); Bolivia Corazón de América (Bolivia); Charya Burt Cambodian Dance (Cambodia); Chitresh Das Institute/Youth Company (India); Eddie Madril/Sewam (Native American Indian); Ensembles Ballet Folklórico de San Francisco (Mexico); Feng Ye Dance (China); Fua Dia Congo

Talk of the Town

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(Congo/Central African); Hālau o Keikiali'i/ Kaululehua Hawaiian Cultural Center (Hawaiian); Jaranón y Bochinche Dance Performance Company (Afro-Peruvian); Jubilee American Dance Theatre (USA); Melissa Cruz Flamenco (Spain); Minoan Dancers (Crete/Greece); Parangal Dance Company (Philippines); Peninsula Ballet Theatre (USA); Peru Expressions (Peru); and Theatre Flamenco of San Francisco (Spain). The Festival will begin with a ceremonial stage blessing by the Association of Rmaytush Ohlone (Native American).

Produced by Christine Leslie, Executive Director of Peninsula Ballet Theatre (PBT), the Bay Area's second oldest ballet and

dance company, the Peninsula International Dance Festival 2023 participants have been thoughtfully selected and invited by PBT's Artistic Director Gregory Amato working closely with Zenón Barrón, revered dance ethnologist and artistic director of Ensembles Ballet Folklórico de San Francisco; Carlos Carvajal, former Co-Artistic Director of the San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival and Peninsula Ballet Theatre Artistic Director Emeritus; and Charlotte Moraga, artistic director of the esteemed



Chitresh Das Institute/Chitresh Das Youth Company.

Christine Leslie commented, "Last year we launched the Peninsula International Dance Festival and it was enthusiastically embraced by the Bay Area. It's an exciting new initiative and part of our expanded mission to connect with more community residents on the greater Peninsula. Six years ago, we began exploring the addition of hip-hop to our classical ballet offerings and it has been a huge success, attracting a new audience to our theater. Presenting an international dance festival is an extension of the many diverse dance classes that are offered weekly in our five studios at the Peninsula

Ballet Theatre center. This is also our way of connecting with and proudly showcasing the extraordinary world dance and music talent in the Bay Area. We're enthusiastic about the future and look forward to sharing this latest iteration of the festival with the public. No passports needed; no TSA security lines to go through: travel the world with the Peninsula International Dance Festival."

Tickets for the Peninsula International Dance Festival 2023 are priced at \$60, \$45 and \$35. Discounts for seniors (65 and up) and juniors (18 and below) are \$5-off per ticket; Group Sales of 10 or more enjoy a 10% discount. Purchase tickets today at www.pidfca.org. Two performances are scheduled: Saturday, July 15, 2023 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, July 16 at 3 p.m.