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**Santa Barbara Dance Alliance Presents**  
**DaM: INTERNATIONAL DANCE & MUSIC FESTIVAL**

Summary Facts:

- Celebration of cultural traditions represented in Santa Barbara County, CA
- Saturday, September 13, 2008
- Learn international folk dances from 2-4:30pm
- Family friendly, early evening performance at 5pm
- Live music
- New location at the Marjorie Luke Theatre, 721 E. Coda St
- Uniquely interactive event with FREE dance lessons with the performers
- For more information and to get involved, call Santa Barbara Dance Alliance at (805) 966-6950 or see [www.sbdancealliance.org](http://www.sbdancealliance.org).

Santa Barbara, CA – Santa Barbara Dance Alliance presents the DaM: International Dance and Music Festival Saturday, September 13, 2008, 2pm-7pm. This family-friendly event features fourteen groups of artists performing and teaching traditional music and dance in colorful costumes from around the world.

Now in its 14<sup>th</sup> year, the DaM Festival finds a new home at the Marjorie Luke Theatre. "We hope the changes to the DaM Festival will usher in a new era of ethnic dance visibility in Santa Barbara that will only grow stronger and better over time," says Julie McLeod, Executive Director of Santa Barbara Dance Alliance. The new location provides the opportunity to reach the East Side neighborhood while continuing to celebrate Santa Barbara's rich, cultural diversity in our own backyard.

Sponsored by Santa Barbara Dance Alliance, this international festival is expected to draw at least a thousand dance participants and observers. Starting with FREE dance instruction from 2:00 to 4:30pm outside the Marjorie Luke Theatre, children and adults alike can experience the magic of movement through dance styles including Polynesian dance from Hawaii and Tahiti and Capoeira, a unique and captivating Brazilian blend of high flying martial arts, dance and song. Everyone is invited to join and spectators are welcome.

The folk dances that will be taught are:

- **Balkan folk dance** with Luis Goena
- **African-American Line Dance** with Derrick Curtis
- **Salsa** with Hector & Tali Sanchez
- **Capoeira** with Capoeira Sul de Bahia
- **Polynesian Hula/Tahitian** with Hula Anyone?
- **Mexican Folklorico** with the Cabrera Family

At 5:00pm, the event moves indoors to the Marjorie Luke Theatre for a full-blown performance celebrating international dance. The dance instructors perform with their companies and add Flamenco, African, Balinese, Indian classical and contemporary, flirtatious Bollywood dance to the mix.

The groups performing are:

- **Santa Barbara East Indian Company**, Sarika Maiti
- **Luis Goena**, Balkan dance
- **Derrick Curtis**, African-American Line Dance
- **Daniela Zermeno's Fuego Gitano**, and **Marlon Dorantes**, Flamenco
- **Seher**, Middle Eastern dance
- **Marisol Cabrera**, Classical Spanish dance
- **Cabrera Family**, Mexican Folklorico
- **Hip Brazil**, Brazilian dance
- **Capoeira Sul de Bahia**
- **Hula Anyone?**, Polynesian and Tahitian dance
- **Hector & Tali Sanchez**, Salsa
- **Edmundo Luna**, Balinese dance
- **Rebecca Wave**, international folk singer and songwriter
- **Mario Martin Zelaya**, Acoustic Flamenco Guitar

Dance instruction is free, and admission to the family friendly, early evening performance is \$10 for adults and free for young people 16 and under. Tickets to the performance are available through Santa Barbara Dance Alliance 805.966.6950 or [www.sbdancealliance.org](http://www.sbdancealliance.org).

**Santa Barbara Dance Alliance** is a service organization promoting dance and dance awareness in Santa Barbara County. It has served the Santa Barbara dance community for 29 years. Each year they produce a varied season of performances and community dance classes, as well as raise funds for scholarships for young artists to pursue their studies. For more information on how you can get involved, call Santa Barbara Dance Alliance at (805) 966-6950 or visit [www.sbdancealliance.org](http://www.sbdancealliance.org).

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**East India Dance Company**, under the direction of classically trained Bharatanatyam dancer **Sarika Maiti**, will perform *Aaja Nachle* ("come let's dance"), an Indian Bollywood style piece to the title song from the Indian movie *Aaja Nachle*. The song conveys a tale of discovering new love, and attracting that new love with the jingling of anklets, some sly glances and of course, a few well placed hip shakes. The piece displays the fusion of modern movements and classical Indian dance. The dancers will wear traditional Indian costumes. The dance group not only represents the diversity of SB, but also the diversity of Indian and South Asia. All dancers are from different parts of S. Asia (India and Bangladesh), have different religious backgrounds (Hindu, Muslim, Catholic), and speak different Indian languages (Bengali, Hindi, Malayalam).

**Luis Goena** directs the Balkan dance and music group **Opa Baba**. They reconstruct a Balkan village. Luis has been teaching Balkan dances and Early California dances in Santa Barbara for the last 60 years. In 2007 he won Dance Alliance's 11<sup>th</sup> Lifetime Achievement Award for his contribution to dance in Santa Barbara.

**Derrick Curtis** is on the Board of Directors of Santa Barbara Dance Alliance and has been teaching youth and adults for 11 years here along with his wife Trudie. They teach ballroom, Latin, line and party dances. Derrick is the EmCee for BASSH: Ballroom, Argentine Tango, Swing, Salsa & Hip-Hop. He teaches at Santa Barbara Dance Center, Montessori Center School and in many public schools in the county.

**Daniela Zermeño** and her company **Fuego Gitano** dance flamenco along with **Marlon Dorantes**. Daniela has been performing since she was 4 years old and teaching flamenco since she was 13 years old in her own studio. She coaches the JV Marquettes Dance Team at San Marcos High School and is assistant coach at La Colina Jr. High's Emeralds Dance Team. She recently won the title of 2008 Spirit of Fiesta Runner-up for Old Spanish Days. She has performed in many flamenco shows with renowned artists such as Roberto Amaral, Juan Talavera, Lourdes and Yelisa of San Francisco. She has performed in all 13 of SBDA's ON THE VERGE: Teen Choreographers' Showcases. She also received SBDA's prestigious "Teen of the Year 2008" award. **Marlon Dorantes**, is 11 years old and has the heart of a Gypsy dancer. He was featured as a young dancer to look out for in the future in the esteemed *Dance Magazine*. He has been the recipient of scholarships from Dance Alliance for the past 3 years. Marlon has trained with Ryan Zermeño, Linda Vega and Paloma Rios. He dreams of going to Spain to study.

**Seher Middle Eastern Dance Company** is directed by **Alexandra King**. Seher performs with the UCSB's Mid-East Ensemble and yearly produces "Moon Over Morocco" a yearly dance festival. She has made videos, been featured in Habibi Magazine. Alexandra is one of the foremost Middle Eastern Dance artists, instructors, choreographers and producers of Middle Eastern Dance productions and videos in Santa Barbara, the California central coast and the United States. In 1998 Alexandra was nominated Best Instructor by the International Academy of Middle Eastern Dance (IAMED), and in 1999 she won their award for Best Cabaret Dancer. She has trained in many forms of dance and teaches in Santa Barbara for many years.

**Marisol Cabrera** is a local dancer, choreographer, director and instructor who has been actively involved in Santa Barbara's dance community for the last 23 years. A graduate of UCLA with a BA degree in *World Arts in Cultures*, Marisol recently returned from studying 3 years in Madrid, Spain, receiving her credentials in Danza Española and Flamenco. She has traveled to London, Mexico, South Korea, Spain,

Hong Kong and many parts of the US to share her performances in the many styles of dance she has studied. Currently Marisol is the co-director and ethnic dance instructor for the Children's Creative Project, *Performing and Visual Arts Camp*.

**The Cabrero Family** is a Mexican Folkloric Group that has performed throughout Santa Barbara for more than 25 years.

**Hip Brazil Dance Company**, under the direction of Vanessa Isaac, will perform a fusion of Folkloric, Street, Afro Brazilian and Contemporary Brazilian dance styles. The piece is done in 3 sections. The first, *Abre Caminho (Opening the Path)* was inspired by the culture of Reconcavo Baiano in the Afro-Brazilian state of Bahia. The Baianas (Bahian women of African Decadence) and their white clothes are a symbol of Bahian culture. Also a source of inspiration is the samba de roda, its music, poetry and traditions. The second section, *Contemplações, Esperança e outras Ondas (Reflections, Hope and other Waves)*, is a contemporary Brazilian solo to the Bossa Nova classic, *Water of March*, that flows into an ensemble Brazilian street dance and Afro Brazilian movement exploration. The third section, *Morning in Rio*, is a tribute to the Samba Carioca and Brazilian Carnivale.

**Capoeira Sul de Bahia**, under the direction of Brazilian-born **Daniel Yoshimi, Prof. Chin** (Sheen), will perform Capoeira & Maculelê. Capoeira is a Brazilian art form combining martial arts and dance. It is a drumming and dance game performed to live traditional capoeira music. Maculelê is an Afro-Brazilian stick dance, involving very energetic movements. In 2000 Chin moved to Santa Barbara and opened the first **Capoeira Sul da Bahia** academy in the USA. In 2002 Chin spearheaded the Kids Low Income Program for low-income children to train in capoeira to receive their cords/belts at the Batizado. In addition, Chin teaches capoeira to elementary students in after school programs. He also teaches percussions, samba rhythms at the Jodi House to adults with Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI). In January 2005, in partnership with Vanessa Isaac and Jessica Elledge, Chin opened Ginga Multicultural Arts Center, the official home of Capoeira Sul da Bahia in SB.

**Angelita Eller**, director and owner of **Hula Anyone?** brings her crowd-pleasing Polynesian dance from Hawaii and Tahiti. Eller has been teaching in Santa Barbara for the past 27 years and taught one of the first cultural dance classes established with Santa Barbara Recreation. Eller has studied with several kumu (master teachers) from Hawaii and Tahiti.

**Hector and Avital Sanchez** teach salsa at the Montecito YMCA and performed in SBDA's 2008 BASSH: Ballroom, Argentine Tango, Swing, Salsa & Hip-Hop at the Lobero. Hector danced with Joel Sanchez's Salsa Barbara and teaches at Santa Barbara Dane Center and UCSB. Avital, his wife, started dance by entering a salsa competition in Mexico. She was the lead dancer of a Bollywood dance troupe in Chennai, India. She is the fitness coordinator and Pilates Teacher Trainer at the Montecito YMCA.

**Edmundo Luna** has studied and performed Central Javanese and Balinese dance (as well as gamelan music) for nearly 16 years with Indonesian teachers and masters in their countries. He is a member of two gamelan groups in the Santa Barbara area: the Central Javanese ensemble at UCSB "Kyai Selamat" and the Cirebonese/Sundanese/Malaysian gamelan group "Gamelan Sinar Surya". Currently he is a PhD graduate of Linguistics at UCSB working on issues from the Balinese

language. His dances utilize masks and long fingernails and are studies of characters that are sometimes humorous and at other times fierce.

**Rebecca Wave**, international folk singer, has been writing and performing for more than 30 years. From singing folk songs on the front porch while her father played an old guitar, she progressed to years of piano and cello lessons, stage and choral singing and traveling the country with guitar in hand. Inspired by the likes of Laura Nyro, Nina Simone, Amalia Rodrigues, Edith Piaf and Joni Mitchell, Wave sings and writes with passion, depth and clarity. She pursues her lifelong love for the music of cultures by performing and recording songs in many languages both contemporary and traditional.

**Mario Martin Zelaya** performs his particular style of solo acoustic rock with a distinctly Spanish flavor throughout the state. He has played at Marathon de Mayo in Nevada, and at the Zihuatanejo International Guitar Festival in Mexico. He has several recordings "Sorcery & Beer" and "Calafia's Moods more of art album, with tracks ranging from solo guitar and voice to full band complete with dolphin chatter! He is currently recording a third CD in Los Angeles.