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For Immediate Release

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Santa Barbara Dance Alliance presents

BASSH: Ballroom, Argentine Tango, Swing, Salsa, & Hip-Hop

Summary Facts:

- BASSH: Ballroom, Argentine Tango, Swing, Salsa, & Hip-Hop, local exhibition and competition winning dancers presented by Santa Barbara Dance Alliance
- 100 talented dance performers and 21 Santa Barbara groups will keep your toes tapping and wanting to get up and join them.
- Friday, March 13th and Saturday, March 14th at 8pm
- Lobero Theatre, 33 E. Canon Perdido, Santa Barbara
- Post-performance GALA for patrons on Friday, March 13th to come on stage share a drink, a bite to eat and a dance with cast members to DJ Mike Loeza's great repertoire of dancing tunes.
- Tickets are \$60 Patron/GALA, \$31 General, \$25 SBDA Members/Students/Seniors.
- For tickets, contact the Lobero Theatre Box Office at (805) 963-0761 or go to www.lobero.com
- For more information, contact Santa Barbara Dance Alliance at (805) 966-6950 or visit www.sbdancealliance.org
- Editors note: Photo opportunities and interviews available upon request.
- **High Resolution 300dpi photos available under "Gallery" on the SBDA website.**

Santa Barbara, CA – Come see the **HOTTEST** dancers in town at Santa Barbara Dance Alliance's 9th annual BASSH with Ballroom, Argentine Tango, Swing, Salsa, & Hip-Hop dancers dazzling at every turn March 13th & 14th at the Lobero Theatre.

Derrick Curtis, SBDA's 2009 Lifetime Achievement winner, will emcee the event and perform with his wife and dance partner Trudie Olsen-Curtis. Dances will include a smooth Foxtrot,

hip-swinging Salsa, the Rhumba Cha Cha, a spicy Paso Dobles, a sultry Tango, and four stomping Hip-Hop groups. Some of the featured dancers include **Deborah Ko** and **Fernando Magana, Alexandra Shadle** and **Brian Wesley**, and **David Alvarez** of **Santa Barbara Dance Center**. Hip-hop is sure to excite when **Fusion Dance Company, Santa Barbara Dance Arts, Evolution**, and **Rhythm & Fitness** take the stage!

Following opening night performance, patrons are invited to **an onstage GALA** with the cast to dance the night away to music by DJ Mike Loeza. Food and drink will be part of the festivities.

BASSH's popularity makes it an annual sellout and advance ticket purchases are highly recommended. Tickets can be purchased from the Lobero Theatre Box Office at (805) 963-0761 or online at www.lobero.com. Prices are \$60 for patrons (includes GALA), \$31 general admission, \$25 SBDA members/students/seniors.

For more information on Santa Barbara Dance Alliance call (805) 966-6950 or go to www.sbdancealliance.org.

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About Santa Barbara Dance Alliance

Santa Barbara Dance Alliance is a unique service organization focused on promoting dance and dance education in Santa Barbara County. In addition to BASSH: Ballroom, Argentine Tango, Swing, Salsa & Hip Hop, SBDA presents year round performances, community events including the DaM Festival (Multicultural Dance and Music), NEW WORKS: Santa Barbara Choreographers, master classes in collaboration with UCSB Arts & Lectures, and ON THE VERGE: Teen Choreographers Showcase. In the past five years, SBDA has awarded 99 scholarships to local, talented, dedicated young artists in need of financial support.

Master of Ceremonies

Derrick Curtis (Production Director, Emcee) has been dancing and teaching youth, teens and adults for 11 years with his wife and dance partner Trudie Olsen-Curtis. They offer instruction in ballroom, Latin, line and party dances. Their business, Embody Dance, provides ballroom dance instruction for youth and teens at the Teen Center and local public and private schools. Derrick teaches Ballroom at Santa Barbara Dance Center and is a recreational therapist and physical education specialist at Montessori Center School. He has served on the Board of Directors of Santa Barbara Dance Alliance and The Brotherhood of Santa Barbara. He is the recipient of SBDA's 12 Lifetime Achievement Award for contribution to dance in Santa Barbara. Their students Maria & Phillip are in the Teen

Division of Embody Dance. www.embodysdance.net

BALLROOM

Arthur Murray Dance Studios has been active in Santa Barbara for over 50 years. This group of professionals has competed with dancers around the world; they have made their mark on a national level and placed at competitions internationally. This year Arthur Murray's group of professionals is proud to present some of the most popular ballroom dances. They will perform a number of routines ranging from a slow seductive Bolero to a high-energy group Cha-Cha formation. Dancers are **Edwin Cabrera and Blair O'Donnell** doing Fox Trot, **Blair and Ricardo Razo** in a Bolero. **Felipe Castaneda and Stephanie Smith** in a Cha Cha, **Javier Ochoa and Daisy Ramirez** dance the American Waltz. The group will dance a formation medley. www.arthurmurraysb.com

David Alvarez of **Santa Barbara Dance Center** (formerly known as Fascinating Rhythm), has been teaching ballroom and Latin for nineteen years. His students have consistently won top awards at the US National Dance Championships, in the Holiday Dance Classic in Las Vegas, Hawaii Star Ball, International Grand Ball in San Francisco, and the Emerald Ball in Los Angeles. Alvarez won Top Teacher award in the California Open in February 2005. He dances competitively with Alison Allan as his partner, tonight dancing Rhumba, Paso Doble and the American Tango. www.santabarbaradancecenter.com

Alexandra Shadle and **Brian Wesley** perform American Rhythm and Smooth, as well as International Latin. Alexandra graduated from Brigham Young University training in American and International Ballroom styles, as well as world/ethnic dance, ballet, tap, jazz, and clogging. She toured locally and internationally with the Brigham Young International Folk Dance Ensemble. After living abroad for four years, **Brian Wesley** returned to Santa Barbara to pursue his career as a professional dancer, performing and competing with his students nationally and teaching dance programs in local schools and health clubs. Alexandra and Brian train with David Alvarez and teach ballroom at Santa Barbara Dance Center. Alexandra also teaches dance and French at San Roque School.

ARGENTINE TANGO

Barbara Salas is an authentic milonguera who comes from an Argentine family of performing artists in tango, Argentine folk dances, theater, and singing. In 2006 she was invited to perform at the grand celebrations for the International Day of Tango in Los Angeles. As well as singing a song from Argentina, she dances with her partner **Bryan Nguyen**.

Fardad Michael Serry is director of Tango Milonga, dedicated to Argentine tango in Santa Barbara. He has been performing and/or teaching throughout the USA. In 2005 he won the Gold Award in tango and milonga at the International Argentine Tango Showcase and Competition in San Diego. He is a jazz trumpeter-flugelhornist with classical music training. He dances with **Naomi Hotta**.

SALSA

Jose Oswaldo Balcaceres has 8 years of salsa dancing experience. He has performed over 35 shows and competed in four competitions. Jose has trained with professional salsa dancer, Alex da Silva. **Hien Dudas** has two and a half years salsa dancing experience. She is training with professional salsa dancer, Alien Ramirez. Together, Oswaldo and Hien have performed over 10 shows including performances at SoHo, Fiesta, Borderline, and Oxnard

Festival in 2007 and 2008. The 2007 Borderline Amateur Salsa competition was their first competition together, where they earned 3rd place. In 2008 they competed again and earned 1st place and the opportunity to perform at the Oxnard Salsa Festival in 2008.

Deborah Ko and **Fernando Magana** have been performing salsa On1, incorporating technique from Australia's On2 dance style. They have performed at Soho's, Ruby's Cafe locally and at Nicholby's Ventura. They won 2nd and 3rd place at the Salsa Congress in Palm Springs for the intermediate dance competition. Deborah Ko is a doctoral candidate in psychology and Fernando Magana is a 3rd year undergraduate in psychology. Together they are co-directors and instructors for the Salsa Performance Team, affiliated with the UCSB Swing and Ballroom Dance Club.

Lovie Hernandez was trained by the world renowned Rojelio Moreno and performed in his Salsa Sabor y Cache Dance Co. Lovie won championships in 2008 in both the Oxnard and Indio Salsa Festivals. He is the choreographer for the new local team, La Revolucion Dance Co. He has taught for Arthur Murray, and he currently teaches at Ruby's and Stateside in Santa Barbara as well as privates lessons in Ventura, Oxnard, and Santa Barbara. He dances with **Maricela Orozco**.

Salsa Barbara is directed by **Joel Sanchez** from Mexico City, Mexico, specializing in authentic Latin-Style dance. **Salsa Lolita** is directed by **Colleen Belharrat** from NY, New York, working in ladies Latin Jazz, Cuban, and Cabaret. **Lauren Breese** is from Santa Barbara and whose style is in Fusion Latin Jazz. **Dani Piro** and **Jenn Dietrich** are both from Danville, California, dancing in Jazz and Hip Hop.

HIP HOP

Fusion Dance Company - Kara Stewart, director graduated from CSULB with a BA degree in Dance. She worked in the entertainment industry as a professional dancer for 7 years working for Disney, Buena Vista Pictures, and many others. Fusion Dance Company is 5 year old semi-professional dance company whose credits include SB International Film Festival, Fire Fighters Alliance, "Fire Ball," "Nights" at the Museum of Art, Simple Shoes fashion show and many charity and community events including Heal the Ocean, Chalk for Peace, UCSB Children's Miracle Network, and SBDA's annual show BASSH.

Shawn Henry, Hip Hop/Break Dance, has been teaching, performing, competing, and choreographing in the art of Hip Hop for over 12 years now. A native Santa Barbarian, his credits include appearing on Good Day in LA and competing in The American Street Dance Championships in Hollywood, CA. His company, "Evolution" incorporates Break Dance and Hip Hop. The group took 1st place in their division, including a judge's award for outstanding performance in Lake Tahoe, NV at The Starbound National Talent Competition. Shawn currently teaches Hip Hop and Break Dances at UCSB.

Santa Barbara Dance Arts, Hip Hop, co-choreographers: **Shannon Abero**, SB Dance Arts faculty was a featured dancer in *Memoirs of a Geisha* and on the Ellen Degeneres Show, performing at the House of Blues and for Monster's of hip-hop, dancing for Nike's "Run Hit Wonder" and J.Lo's "Glow." **Anne Wilmore** trained with Tamarr Paul and was on the Dos Pueblos Dance Team. This is her second year on faculty with SB Dance Arts choreographing for their Axis and Vibe dance companies and for BASSH. **Alana Tillim** is the Managing Director and owner of SB Dance Arts with Steven Lovelace (formerly SBJDA). She has danced for over 25 years studying gymnastics, ballet (RAD), modern, jazz and hip-hop. She teaches at Cold Spring School, has performed, choreographed, and produced local

shows for the SB Dance Alliance including New Works and BASSH and mentored for On the Verge. She is co-President on the Board of Directors of Santa Barbara Dance Alliance and on the board of Santa Barbara's Neighborhood Clinics.

Tamarr Paul, a choreographer, performer, and Director of the Rhythm Dance & Fitness Company, directs **Rhythm Street Team**. He has lived in Los Angeles choreographing music videos and commercial ads. Tamarr has worked with world-renowned choreographer, Debbie Allen, as a Principle Hip-Hop teacher at her Dance Academy in Culver City. Tamarr also travels around the country as a guest artist. His attitude and aura inspire choreographers and dancers to create, own and love their craft.

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