

May 21, 2008

For Immediate Release

Press Contacts:

Julie McLeod

(805) 565-1332 / JulieOK@aol.com

Nicole Helton

(805) 966-6950 / dance@sbdancealliance.org



Daniela Zermeño, performing her last ON THE VERGE, is honored by Santa Barbara Dance Alliance as Teen Dancer of the Year

Summary Facts:

- Daniela Zermeño, age 19
- Performed in every ON THE VERGE performance over its 13 years
- Owns her own dance studio, Fuego Gitaño
- Santa Barbara Dance Alliance 'Teen of the Year,' 2008
- Daniela will perform in her last ON THE VERGE
- Will receive her honor for 'Teen of the Year' at ON THE VERGE
- ON THE VERGE: Teen Choreographers' Showcase / Saturday May 31st / 8pm / The Marjorie Luke Theatre
- Tickets and More Info at 805.966.6950 or www.sbdancealliance.org/productions/verge

Daniela Zermeño danced in the first production of ON THE VERGE: Annual Teen Choreographers' Showcase 13 years ago at the age of six with her older siblings Ryan and Monique in a piece by Marisol Cabrera. She has performed in every Showcase since. It has only been in the last five years that Daniela has choreographed for ON THE VERGE on her own, creating both flamenco and jazz dances for herself and her peers to perform.

ON THE VERGE: Annual Teen Choreographers' Showcase is presented by Santa Barbara Dance Alliance to nurture our FCA – Future Choreographers of America. Pre-professional teens spend 3 months taking workshops on choreography, music, costumes and lighting for dance and work under the guidance of professional mentors. They participate in educational demonstrations for under served audiences, showing their original works at youth organizations, retirement centers and elementary, junior high and high schools, and talking about what it is like to create their own work. Additionally they work with the administrative elements- selling program ads and tickets, writing bios and press releases. In working with ON THE VERGE, they learn first hand what it means to professionally produce a show.

Daniela started dancing when she was just four years old, studying flamenco, hip-hop, jazz, and swing. She currently studies flamenco in Los Angeles with Briseyda Zarate and has performed with Roberto Amaral, Juan Talavera, Lourdes, and Carolla, Yaelisa.

With great determination, Daniela has been teaching in her own dance studio, Fuego Gitaño, since the age of twelve. Her student body has risen to 50, ranging from age three to adult. Five of her students have entered the Spirit of Fiesta competition in the last 2 years. Daniela was the runner-up for the Senior Spirit of Fiesta in both 2006 and 2008.

As a young leader, Daniela has put in a tremendous number of community service hours with Old Spanish Days, the San Marcos Marquettes, the American Heart Association Heart Walk, and Educational Outreach with Santa Barbara Dance Alliance. The students at her studio, Fuego Gitaño have performed more than 8 times at local elementary and junior high schools. This past year she has taught for "Everybody Dance Now" a youth created project committed to teaching dance to over 250 underserved 8-12 year olds.

She has been a vital part of the San Marcos High School Marquette's Varsity Performing Team and held the title of varsity captain for 2 years. She won the 2006 King of the Bleachers National Title in the Jazz Soloist division in Long Beach, Ca. Upon graduating in 2007, she was invited to coach for the Jr. Varsity Marquette Team, the high school dance, hip-hop and pom teams. She accepted the position and is also serving as assistant coach for the La Colina Junior High Emeralds Performing Team.

Daniela is taking business classes at Santa Barbara City College, while working with the Marquettes, the Emeralds, teaching her flamenco classes and choreographing her final piece for ON THE VERGE. She says, "I am not going to quit my job to go full time to school to get a degree in what I am doing already." Her ambition, diligence and principled work have made her a leader amongst her peers. Santa Barbara Dance Alliance has honored her as "Teen of the Year" and is nominating her for the honor of a 2008 Santa Barbara Youth Leadership award.

ON THE VERGE: 13th Annual Teen Choreographers' Showcase is presented by the Santa Barbara Dance Alliance and is generously supported by The Marjorie Luke Theatre Rent Subsidy, Santa Barbara County Arts Commission, Santa Barbara City Parks & Recreation, Santa Barbara City Teen Programs, Towbes Foundation, Wood Claeysens Foundation, Ann Jackson Foundation, Stauffer Foundation, Hutton Foundation, Montecito Bank & Trust, Margo & Robert Feinberg and Venoco, Inc.

ON THE VERGE: 13th Annual Teen Choreographers' Showcase Saturday, May 31st at 8pm at The Marjorie Luke Theatre. Ticket prices are \$15 General Admission, \$12 Dance Alliance members, \$10 Students/Seniors, and \$50 Patrons. Tickets for the performance are available online at www.sbdancealliance.org or call Santa Barbara Dance Alliance at 805 966-6950.

-END-

Editor: Photos embedded. For high resolution photos, go to the link below.
Interviews available on request. Contact Daniela Zermeño at (805) 451-3349
or Julie McLeod at (805) 565-1332



Photo Credit: Mallory Morrison, Brooks Institute of Photography
High Resolution photo of Daniela Zermeño at <http://www.sbdancealliance.org/gallery/verge/>

Santa Barbara Dance Alliance presents

ON THE VERGE:

TEEN CHOREOGRAPHERS' SHOWCASE

Saturday, May 31, 2008 / 8pm
Marjorie Luke Theatre / 721 E. Cota

Fifteen pre-professional teen choreographers and technical theatre students create their own work under the guidance of mentor-choreographers. They are the "Future Choreographers of America."

Mallory Morrison - Brooks Institute of Photography

Independent

Dorothea Hawes Fdn.

Montecito Bank & Trust
Member FDIC

Margo & Robert Einberg

SANTA BARBARA NEWS PRESS

Arts Commission

Marjorie Luke Arts Society

For Tickets
sbdancealliance.org or 966-6950
 or buy at the door General \$15, SBDA Mem \$12, Stu/Snr \$10, Patron \$50

Photo Credit: Mallory Morrison, Brooks Institute of Photography

This Press Release and a Press Release for ON THE VERGE available at www.sbdancealliance.org/press/releases