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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, FREE
- Family friendly, early evening performance at 5pm, tickets are \$10 adults and FREE to youth 16 and under
- Live music
- New location at the Marjorie Luke Theatre, 721 E. Cota St
- Uniquely interactive event with FREE dance lessons with the performers
- Tickets to the performance available at: www.sbdancealliance.org or by calling (805) 966-6950
- For more information and to get involved, call Santa Barbara Dance Alliance at (805) 966-6950 or see 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 14th 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 right 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 Marisol Cabrera

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**, Indian Bollywood
- **Oak Park Village Dancers**, Balkan Folk Dance
- **Daniela Zermeno's Fuego Gitano, and Marlon Dorantes**, Flamenco
- **SEHER**, Middle Eastern dance
- **Marisol Cabrera**, Classical Spanish dance
- **Folklor Mexicano de Santa Barbara**, Mexican Folklorico
- **Hip Brazil**, Brazilian dance
- **Capoeira Sul de Bahia**, Capoeira
- **Hula Anyone?**, Polynesian and Tahitian dance
- **Just Baila**, Salsa
- **Edmundo Luna**, Balinese dance
- **Rebecca Wave**, international folk singer and songwriter

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.

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.

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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 group **Oak Park Village Dancers**. Together with the band Opa Baba, they reconstruct a Balkan village each week in Oak Park and around Santa Barbara. Luis has been teaching Balkan dances and Early California dances in Santa Barbara for over 60 years. In 2008 he won Dance Alliance's 11th 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** will 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 to 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 12 years old and has the heart of a Gypsy dancer. In February he was featured as a "Child Dance Prodigy" 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 performers for the DaM Festival are **Cris!** and **Kalila**. **Cris!** is an award winning belly dancer, teacher and choreographer. She is a featured soloist for the UCSB Middle East Ensemble and SEHER. **Kalila** has studied and performed Middle-Eastern dance for the last six years. She was a member of the Northern California dance troupe, The Dancers of the Mystic Sun, and has been a member of SEHER for the last three years. In addition to dancing with SEHER, Kalila performs as a soloist in the Santa Barbara and San Francisco Bay Area.

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*.

Folklor Mexicano de Santa Barbara under the direction of **Francisco Cabrera** is a Mexican Folkloric Group comprised of the Cabrera Family. Together they have performed throughout Santa Barbara for more than 25 years. Francisco Cabrera formed the group in 1992 to support daughter Marisol Cabrera who began dancing at 3 ½ years old. Their motto is: "Families that dance together stay together". Marisol is now 26 years old and their son is 23 years old. The Cabrera Family will perform a dance from the State of Jalisco Mexico, "El Son De La Negra."

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.

Just Baila, is directed by husband and wife team, **Hector and Avital Sanchez**. They teach salsa at the Montecito YMCA and performed in SBDA's 2008 BASSH: Ballroom, Argentine Tango, Swing, Salsa & Hip-Hop at the Lobero. Hector has danced with Joel Sanchez's Salsa Barbara and currently teaches at Santa Barbara Dance Center and UCSB. Avital started dancing 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.

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EDITOR: 300 dpi photos are available at
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New photos added. Interview opportunities available. Call (805) 966-6950