

DAM Festival 2007 Press Release



For Immediate Release

[High resolution 300dpi photos](#)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DAM: International Dance, Art & Music Festival

**is coming to Santa Barbara's
Oak Park, August 18 and 19, 2007**

Summary Facts:

- Celebration of cultural traditions represented in Santa Barbara County, CA
- Saturday and Sunday, August 18 and 19, 2007
- Oak Park, Santa Barbara, CA
- FREE and family friendly
- Performances on two stages
- Uniquely interactive event with free dance lessons by the performers
- World bazaar of arts, crafts and delicious food
- New this year – special focus on exhibit and sales of world arts and crafts
- New this year – former Joffrey dancer Josette Roozen is artistic director
- For information and to get involved, call Santa Barbara Dance Alliance 805 966-6950 or see www.sbdancealliance.org.

Santa Barbara showcases its rich cultural heritage at the International Dance Music and Art Festival Saturday and Sunday, August 18 and 19, 2008, 11 am – 7 pm. Admission is free. This family-friendly event features more than 40 artists performing traditional and contemporary music and dance from around the world on two stages. Exhibition and sales of world arts and crafts and sumptuous treats of world cuisine round out the festival atmosphere.

Sponsored by the Santa Barbara Dance Alliance, this international festival is now in its 13 th year and is expected to draw at least 3,000. The line-up features dance, music and costumes of Afghanistan, Argentina, Baja, Bulgaria, Celtic myth, Cuba, Egypt, England, Greece, Guatemala, Hindu culture, India, Indonesia, Israel, Macedonia, Mexico, Middle East, Palestine, Polynesia, Russia, South America, Spain, Thailand, United States and West Africa. On top of watching and listening, parents and kids can take away the experience of dance from free dance lessons going on all day in Salsa, Tribal Belly Dance, Russian, World Folk Dance, Balkan, and Mexican Folklorico.

Chumash singers and dancers open the festival with blessings each day sent aloft with the fragrant sage on the wings of chants and drum beats. The myths of Java come to life in the costumed characters of Goletan Tarian Ball and the ringing brass gongs and metallophones of Gamelan Sinar Surya. Leslie Sack will warm things up with a hot salsa lesson on Sunday at 5 pm to get everyone ready to dance, dance, dance at sizzling send off by Somos Son, the 9-member Cuban Salsa band, at the finale on Sunday at 6 pm.

New in 2007 is a focus on the visual arts with a focus on the creative process. Local artists, representative of the creative culture in the community, will sell and demonstrate the process of making their work. There will also be an international crafts bazaar where visitors can purchase clothing, jewelry and musical instruments.

Finding and programming the performers is the responsibility IDAM 2007's curator, Josette Roozen-Tkacik. Josette, whose mother is from Haiti and father from Holland, relocated several times during her childhood which led her to many opportunities with different companies. At the age of 10 she was dancing at the Pennsylvania Ballet, at 13 she was a company dancer with the Metropolitan Ballet of St. Louis. At 15 She was dancing with the Haiti National Ballet, and at 16 joined the Joffrey in New York. Also at that age Josette attended the High School of Performing Arts where she continued in Musical Theatre, and also won the prestigious Shakespeare competition in Central Park. Josette continued dancing here in Santa Barbara with Julie McLeod and pursued an acting career in Los Angeles. She is married to Argentine Polo Player Sebastian Tkacik, and spends her time between a home in Buenos Aires, Argentina.; West Palm Beach Florida and Santa Barbara, California.

Santa Barbara Dance Alliance is a service organization promoting dance and dance awareness in Santa Barbara County. Each year the 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 Dance Alliance and the DAM festival and how you can get involved, call Santa Barbara Dance Alliance, 805 966-6950 and see www.sbdanceallianc.org.

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