

For Immediate Release
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Rotunda Dance Series: San Francisco Ballet School Trainee Program

Presented by Dancers' Group and World Arts West,
in partnership with San Francisco Grants for the Arts and
San Francisco City Hall

Free

April 5, 2013
12 Noon
San Francisco City Hall

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—March 1, 2013—This free public performance is part of the Rotunda Dance Series, a partnership between Dancers' Group and World Arts West with San Francisco's Grants for the Arts and San Francisco City Hall. April's featured ensemble is the San Francisco Ballet School Trainee Program, with performances by the most advanced students at the famed Ballet's School.

Join us for this lively and compelling lunchtime dance performance amidst the grandeur of San Francisco City Hall—Friday, April 5, 2013 at noon.

The high profile Rotunda Dance Series brings many of the Bay Area's most acclaimed dance companies to San Francisco City Hall's rotunda space for free noon-time performances taking place the first Friday of each month. Events primarily involve dance, but often also include live music, theater or other performing art disciplines.

About San Francisco Ballet School Trainee Program (school.sfballet.org/trainee)

Established in 2004, the San Francisco Ballet School Trainee Program is comprised of students ranging in age from 16-19 who hail from across the globe. Perspective Trainees are chosen from the School's most advanced level by SF Ballet School Director Helgi Tomasson and Associate Director Patrick Armand. The goal of this pre-professional program is to help ease the dancers' transition from the studio classroom to the professional stage. Trainees participate in technique classes taught by Mr. Armand, School Faculty and Company Artists. Trainees also have the opportunity to choreograph and perform their own works as well as rehearsing with established choreographers and performing classical and contemporary works (from the SF Ballet's repertory.) These unique experiences are provided within a small, nurturing environment, which allows for personal attention to each individual dancer. On average, Trainees present twelve performances a year throughout the Bay Area and participate in the annual SF Ballet School Student Showcase, performing works by choreographers such as George Balanchine, August Bournonville, and Marius Petipa. When appropriate, Trainees are involved in Company productions such as Tomasson's *Nutcracker* and *The Sleeping Beauty*, as well as Balanchine's *Symphony in C*, among others. After graduating from the Program, Trainees go on to join San Francisco Ballet as well as many other renowned companies including Joffrey Ballet, Houston Ballet, Boston Ballet, National Ballet of Canada, Oregon Ballet Theatre and Royal Winnipeg Ballet.

About Dancers' Group (dancersgroup.org) Dancers' Group promotes the visibility and viability of dance. Founded in 1982, we serve San Francisco Bay Area artists, the dance community and audiences through programs and services that are as collaborative and innovative as the creative process. As the primary dance service organization for the second largest dance community in the country, Dancers' Group's many programs help artists produce work, build audiences, and connect with their peers and the community.

About World Arts West (worldartswest.org) For over three decades, World Arts West has supported and presented world dance artists throughout the San Francisco Bay Area. The main presenting program of the organization is the nationally acclaimed *San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival*, which presents over 100 distinct dance forms and thousands of local dancers who are sustaining and innovating within those forms. The organization works year round to advance cultural literacy and build bridges of cultural understanding.

The 2013 Rotunda Dance Series will continue on Friday, May 3 with the Chitresh Das Dance Company, dedicated to the preservation, promotion and education of Kathak dance and Indian Culture. May's performance will be a part of Bay Area Dance Week.

Calendar Editors please note:

Who: Rotunda Dance Series: **San Francisco Ballet School Trainee Program**

What: Free monthly dance performance, presented by Dancers' Group and World Arts West, in partnership with San Francisco Grants for the Arts and San Francisco City Hall.

Cost: Free

Where: City Hall, San Francisco

When: Friday, April 5, 2013, Noon

Info: Michelle Lynch, (415) 920-9181, michelle@dancersgroup.org

Images available upon request.

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