

For Immediate Release
Contact: Michelle Lynch Reynolds
(415) 920-9181
michelle@dancersgroup.org

Rotunda Dance Series: San Francisco Ballet School Trainee Program
Part of Bay Area Dance Week

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

Free

Friday, April 29, 2016
12 Noon
San Francisco City Hall

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—March 31, 2016—In its sixth season of free monthly dance performances in San Francisco City Hall's extraordinary rotunda, Dancers' Group and World Arts West are once again partnering to bring audiences lunchtime glimpses into movement and musical traditions from around the world.

In April, the Rotunda Dance Series continues with a performance by the gifted students of the **San Francisco Ballet School Trainee Program**. The program's advanced students from around the globe will perform both traditional and contemporary ballet repertory, followed by a talk-back with the audience.

This performance is one of over 400 free events that will take place during the 18th annual Bay Area Dance Week, April 22-May 1, 2016. San Francisco Ballet presents a second event during the festival: [watch company class at the War Memorial Opera House on Sunday May 1 at 11:30am](#).

Bay Area Dance Week has something for everyone, including workshops, performances, classes, open rehearsals and more. First time dancers can try their hand (and feet) at a variety of dance styles, art lovers can go behind-the-scenes and see how dances get made, or wannabe divas can unleash their inner pop star while learning music video routines. This 10-day festival reflects the unending generosity of the local dance community, and offers the public a chance to enjoy some of the region's artistic riches completely free of charge.

Presented during and as part of the nationwide festival National Dance Week, the Bay Area's edition has grown to be the nation's largest celebration. Bay Area Dance Week draws more than 20,000 attendees each year to events in San Francisco, the East Bay, North Bay and South Bay. Learn more at bayareadance.org

The Rotunda Dance Series will continue monthly through 2016, highlighting many cultural traditions from across the world, including April's performance of traditional and contemporary

ballet, historic European and American social dances, all-female hip hop, physically integrated dance, and clogging, among others.

The Series brings many of the Bay Area's most celebrated dance companies to San Francisco City Hall's rotunda space for free monthly noon-time performances. The Rotunda Dance series is presented by Dancers' Group and World Arts West in partnership with Grants for the Arts and San Francisco City Hall.

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 to 19 who hail from across the globe. Prospective 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 rehearse with established choreographers and perform classical and contemporary repertoire. 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 *Swan Lake*, as well as Balanchine's *Coppélia*, 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 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.

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 itself. In response to the needs of its constituents, Dancers' Group has evolved to fulfill a dual function as a service organization and as a presenter of performance opportunities that maximize the visibility of dance in the Bay Area.

Save the Dates for the rest of the 2016 Rotunda Dance Series

Friday, May 13: Academy of Danse Libre and Cypress String Quartet

Friday, June 3: Opening of San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival

Friday, August 5: NAKA Dance Theater
Friday, September 2: Mix'd Ingrdnts
Friday, October 7: AXIS Dance Company
Friday, November 4: Mussel Rock Cloggers
Friday, December 9: Artists TBA

Calendar Editors please note:

Who: Rotunda Dance Series: San Francisco Ballet School Trainee Program, part of Bay Area Dance Week

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

Cost: Free

Where: City Hall, San Francisco

When: Friday, April 29, 2016, Noon

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

Image of San Francisco Ballet School Trainee Program available for download:

http://dancersgroup.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/SF-Ballet-School-Trainee-Program_photo-by-Erik-Tomasson.jpg

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