

For Immediate Release  
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**Rotunda Dance Series: NAKA Dance Theater**  
Presented by Dancers' Group and World Arts West,  
in partnership with Grants for the Arts and  
San Francisco City Hall

**Free**

Friday, August 5, 2016  
12 Noon  
San Francisco City Hall

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—June 30, 2016—In their sixth season of free monthly dance performances in San Francisco City Hall's extraordinary rotunda, Dancers' Group and World Arts West continue their partnership to bring audiences lunchtime glimpses into movement and musical traditions from around the world.

For August's performance, **NAKA Dance Theater** premieres an excerpt of their upcoming site-specific performance project, *RACE*. Fittingly taking place on *the exact day* of the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Summer Olympics Opening Ceremony, NAKA performs *RACE* to investigate past and present Olympic Games—paying tribute to the tumultuous 1968 Mexico City Olympics and various civil disobedience movements that broke out worldwide. *RACE* offers a powerful look at the poverty industrial complex. The “cleaning up” that happens in preparation for the Olympic Games globally is analogous to conflicts in San Francisco, where the economic tech boom often ousts the city's most vulnerable residents. *When city streets are cleaned up, who benefits? Who is swept aside?*

Free performances of *RACE* will continue throughout the Tenderloin in August and September. The work is commissioned by Dancers' Group's ONSITE program, which brings large-scale, site-specific dance performances, free-of-charge to the public in highly visible locations throughout San Francisco. NAKA Dance Theater is developing *RACE* as part of their residency with ABD Productions/Skywatchers. Skywatchers engages Tenderloin residents as storytellers, co-creators, performers, and audience members. Additional collaborating artists include David Molina, Shakiri, Ian Winters, Steven Sanchez, Carla Orendorff and Kevin O'Connor. For the full schedule and more details visit [dancersgroup.org/onsite](http://dancersgroup.org/onsite).

The Rotunda Dance Series will continue monthly through 2016, highlighting many cultural traditions from across the world, including traditional Peruvian dance, 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 NAKA Dance Theater** ([nkdancetheater.com](http://nkdancetheater.com))

Founded in 2001, Navarrete x Kajiyama Dance Theater (NAKA) creates interdisciplinary performance works that use movement, story, art installation, multimedia, and site-specific

environments. Our work has been influenced by ritual, cultural studies, and the socio-political and environmental concerns of the world in which we live.

We cultivate partnerships with communities, explore people's histories & folklore, and express experiences through performance that is accessible but that challenges the viewer to think critically about pressing issues. NAKA brings together diverse populations to create a rapport among them, encouraging dialogue and civic participation.

NAKA has created work involving members of the Latino transgender community, the local Mexican-American and Japanese-American communities, and San Francisco's community of Argentine Tango dancers. From 2005-2008, we were artists-in-residency at ODC Theater. In 2006, NAKA was named one of the 25 to Watch by Dance Magazine. In 2007, we collaborated with visual artists from Eastside Arts Alliance, an organization of artists and community organizers of color in East Oakland to create the performance environment for The Revenge of Huitlacoche. That same year, NAKA was invited to present their work at the Hemispheric Institute on Performance and Politics' Encuentro in Buenos Aires, Argentina. In 2008 & 2014, we were chosen to be the San Francisco representative for SCUBA Touring Network performances in Minneapolis, Philadelphia, and Seattle. In 2010-11 we were Irvine Fellows at the Lucas Artist Residency Program at Montalvo Arts Center. Our work has been presented by Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, ODC Theater, the Queer Arts Festival, Cal State East Bay, the Asian Pacific Islander Cultural Center Performance Series, the Oakland Museum of California, and the San Francisco Asian Art Museum.

#### **About World Arts West ([worldartswest.org](http://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](http://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, September 2: Mix'd Ingrdnts  
Friday, October 7: AXIS Dance Company  
Friday, November 4: Mussel Rock Cloggers  
Friday, December 9: Bolivia Corazón de América

#### **Calendar Editors please note:**

Who: Rotunda Dance Series: NAKA Dance Theater  
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, August 5, 2016, Noon

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

Image available for download:

[http://dancersgroup.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/NAKA-Dance-Theater\\_photo-by-Scott\\_Tsuchitani.jpg](http://dancersgroup.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/NAKA-Dance-Theater_photo-by-Scott_Tsuchitani.jpg)

*Photo by Scott Tsuchitani*

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