

For Immediate Release
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Rotunda Dance Series: De Rompe y Raja Cultural Association

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

Free

Friday, December 5, 2014
12 Noon
San Francisco City Hall

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—November 1, 2014—This December, the Rotunda Dance Series will mark the holidays with Peruvian dance and music ensemble **De Rompe y Raja** in collaboration with dancers from Asociación Cultural Kanchis. A highlight of the performance will be “Hatajo de Negritos,” a vignette of a Christmas festival in the town of El Carmen, Chincha—a festival with diverse elements from Peru’s cultural history. In this tradition, indigenous Peruvian, Spanish and African cultures converge. The lyrics are from European Christmas carols, with some references to the hardships of slavery. Dancers carry hand bells and rope whips reminiscent of slavery, and they dance in parallel lines led by a caporal, or foreman. The melodies are of Spanish origin with a strong Andean influence.

The high-profile Rotunda Dance Series brings many of the Bay Area’s most renowned 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.

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.

About De Rompe y Raja Cultural Association

(<https://www.facebook.com/pages/De-Rompe-y-Raja-Cultural-Association/190615430397>)

De Rompe y Raja is a cultural organization that promotes and preserves the legacy of Afro-descendants from coastal Peru. It was founded in 1995 by Peruvian musicians and dancers in the San Francisco Bay Area.

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. 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.

The 2015 Rotunda Dance Series will begin on Friday, February 20, 2015; more details on the 2015 Rotunda Dance Series will be announced later this fall.

Calendar Editors please note:

Who: Rotunda Dance Series: De Rompe y Raja Cultural Association

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, December 5, 2014, Noon

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

Images available for download:

http://dancersgroup.org/?attachment_id=11510

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