

For Immediate Release
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Rotunda Dance Series: Hālau ‘o Keikiali‘i and Hālau ‘o Ku‘ulei

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

Free
Friday, June 5, 2015
12 Noon
San Francisco City Hall

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—Apr 30, 2015—The 2015 Rotunda Dance Series continues with performances of both traditional and modern Hawaiian dance and music by Hālau ‘o Keikiali‘i and Hālau ‘o Ku‘ulei. This special event commemorates one of the first-ever mainland US performances featuring the ‘ukulele, which took place at the Panama-Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco in 1915. Hawaiian music and culture then became wildly popular across the country, with Hawaiian music recordings outselling all other styles of music in the United States the following year.

This event will serve as the grand opening of the June performances of the 2015 **San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival**, which will run June 5-27, featuring 22 Bay Area dance companies sustaining cultural traditions from around the world. This year’s Festival celebrates the Centennial of the Panama-Pacific International Exhibition, where 18 million visitors experienced world dance and music as never before.

The San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival celebrates and fosters appreciation for the world dance and music artists living throughout the greater Bay Area’s diverse ethnic communities. On the Festival stages, audiences have the opportunity to experience dance from over 75 distinct world cultures. The New York Times called the annual San Francisco Ethnic Dance festival "a glorious achievement...one of the finest of all American dreams: a setting where cultures can celebrate their own traditions while honoring and applauding others." For more information, visit sfethnicedancefestival.org.

About Hālau ‘o Keikiali‘I (keikialii.com)

Kawika Keikiali‘ihiwahiwa Alfiche is Kumu Hula, Artistic Director, and Choreographer for Hālau o Keikiali‘i and Director for the Kaululehua Hawaiian Cultural Center, in South San Francisco. The company, founded in 1994, tours throughout the US, Mexico, Japan and the Pacific Rim. The dancers—ages five to eighty-five—study Hawaiian dance,

chant, and culture extensively with Kumu Kawika. Kawika's Kumu Hulas have been Tiare Maka-Olanolan Clifford of Hanalei, Kaua'i; Kumu Hula Harriet Kahalepoli Keahilihau-Spalding of Keaukaha, Hawai'i; and in 1996, Kumu Hula Rae Kahikilaulani Fonseca of Hilo, Hawai'i. In March 2007, Kawika was one of six at Rae Fonseca's only 'ūniki (traditional graduation). Also a noted Hawaiian musician, Kawika has released original songs on three CDs, one of which "White Ships," has just been released.

About Hālau 'o Ku'ulei (facebook.com/HalauOKuulei)

Hālau 'o Ku'ulei was formed in 2003 under the instruction of Kumu Hula Ku'ulei Auwae- McAllister, a longtime advocate of the Hawaiian culture. Formal training in hālau (hula school) starts at three years of age, where dancers learn Hawaiian language, chant, customs, protocol, implement and costume making. The mission of Halau 'o Ku'ulei is to provide a positive environment through which students may grow in their cultural awareness and personal evolution; to ensure that the Hawaiian and Polynesian heritage and traditions are properly preserved and passed on to future generations; and to share the true richness of the Polynesian culture with as many people as possible.

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 continues:

Fri, Aug 7: Los Lupeños de San José
Fri, Sep 4: Kaiwen You Chinese Dance
Fri, Oct 2: Mary Sano and Her Duncan Dancers
Fri, Nov 6: Nimely Pan African Dance Company
Fri, Dec 4: Hālau 'o Kawainuhi

Visit dancersgroup.org/rotunda for more information

Calendar Editors please note:

Who: Rotunda Dance Series: Hālau 'o Keikiali'i and Hālau 'o Ku'ulei

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.
The opening event of the 37th San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival.

Cost: Free

Where: City Hall, San Francisco

When: Friday, June 5, 2015, Noon

Info: Terry Conway, (415) 474-3914, terry@worlddartswest.org
dancersgroup.org/rotunda

Image available for download: http://dancersgroup.org/?attachment_id=18382

Photo of Hālau 'o Keikiali'I by RJ Muna

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