

For Immediate Release
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**Rotunda Dance Series: Opening of the 2013 San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival with Ballet
Folklórico Netzahualcoyotl and Fogo Na Roupá Performing Company**
Presented by World Arts West,
in partnership with Dancers' Group, San Francisco Grants for the Arts and
San Francisco City Hall

Free
June 7, 2013
12 Noon
San Francisco City Hall

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—May 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. June's performance will serve as the opening event of the 35th Anniversary San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival, which celebrates and fosters appreciation for the diverse ethnic communities in the Bay Area through an annual performance season of dance styles that have included traditional classical dance, sacred dance genres, vernacular dance forms, social dance and folk dance presentations. This year's Festival features 35 dance companies performing throughout the month of June. Each weekend's program is different, and includes numerous cross-cultural collaborations. For more information, visit sfethnicedancefestival.org.

The June Rotunda Dance Series performance begins with **Ballet Folklórico Netzahualcoyotl** in *Matlachines of Zacatecas*, a Catholic processional dance performed in the city of Zacatecas to honor The Virgin of Guadalupe. The dancers follow a baraguilla, a captain, whose steps and gestures signal commands. Everyone stays in the groove, while crossovers and exchanges shape crosses and circles, creating a footprint of the course.

The opening event continues with **Fogo Na Roupá Performing Company**, an award-winning, Brazilian Carnival dance and percussion company and carnival group. In a performance called *Carnaval do Fogo*, Fogo Na Roupá brings their unstoppable street party to the Rotunda, dancing clothes-on-fire samba, a full contingent of drummers and dancers parading together—and their shared goal is euphoria. The style is urban-derived, funky samba, inspired by Brazilian samba-reggae. The dancers wear full carnival regalia. Red, green and yellow represent Africa; headpieces of coque feathers honor Brazil's indigenous people; and the regalia reflects the influence of both cultures.

Join us for this lively and celebratory lunchtime dance performance amidst the grandeur of San Francisco City Hall—Friday, June 7, 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 Ballet Folklórico Netzahualcoyotl ([facebook.com/ballet.netzahualcoyotl](https://www.facebook.com/ballet.netzahualcoyotl)) Director Netza Vidal founded Ballet Folklórico Netzahualcoyotl in 1996. He was born in the city of Compostela, Nayarit, Mexico, and studied Mexican Folkloric dance at the Escuela de la Danza Mexicana Jaime Buentello Bazán. The dance company is currently composed of more than thirty students, with Netza teaching both adults and children in different locations, including San Rafael, Concord, and Santa Rosa, California. Ballet Folklórico Netzahualcoyotl's highest goal has been to research Mexican folklore and share with the world some of Mexico's most prized gifts: its dances, customs, and traditions!

About Fogo Na Roupa Performing Company (gofogo.com) Founded in 1989 by Mestre Carlos Aceituno, Fogo na Roupa is a Bay Area, award-winning, Brazilian Carnival dance and percussion company and carnival group, a diverse community of dancers, musicians, and carnavalescos rooted in the study of Afro-Brazilian dance and percussion. Before his untimely passing in 2006, Mestre Aceituno developed one of the largest, strongest San Francisco carnival contingents. Fogo na Roupa, under the artistic direction of Jose Rivera and Metzi Henriquez, continues to fire up the crowds. The group has won multiple San Francisco Carnival Grand Championships, most recently in 2011, as well as Best of the Bay 2011, and a 2012 "Corazon Del Barrio Award" from Mission Cultural Center.

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 2013 Rotunda Dance Series will continue on Friday, August 2.

Calendar Editors please note:

Who: Rotunda Dance Series: Opening of the 2013 San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival with Ballet Folklórico Netzahualcoyotl and Fogo Na Roupa Performing Company.

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, June 7, 2013, Noon

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Images available upon request.

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