

For Immediate Release  
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### **Rotunda Dance Series: Karavansaray Dance Company and Bal Anat**

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

#### **Free**

Friday, November 7, 2014  
12 Noon  
San Francisco City Hall

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—October 1, 2014—This November, join us for a special Fall Feature performance curated by the San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival. Two of the Bay Area's renowned Egyptian belly dance ensembles, Karavansaray Dance Company and Bal Anat, will perform amidst the grandeur of San Francisco City Hall. The performance will range from traditional Ghawazee dances of Egypt to more modern interpretations of belly dance.

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 Karavansaray Dance Company ([amandadancer.com/Karavansaray](http://amandadancer.com/Karavansaray))**

Karavansaray Dance Company formed in 2008 by Amanda Baer, who has studied Near Eastern dance forms for over 20 years. Like the caravan stops on the Silk Road from which this troupe takes its name, Karavansaray brings together wide-ranging cultural influences— from throughout the Near East and beyond. The company's mission is to present Folkloric, Classical and informed-innovation dances based in and inspired by Near Eastern Dance, covering geographic regions from Turkey to Central Asia and from North Africa to the Middle East; and to present Near Eastern dance respectfully, with cultural sensitivity and authenticity.

#### **About Bal Anat ([suhailainternational.com](http://suhailainternational.com))**

Bal Anat was formed in 1968 by Jamila Salimpour out of a need for an organized presentation of the various Middle East dances at the Renaissance Pleasure Faire in Northern California. This provided Salimpour a means to present her many years of research on traditional Middle East dance folkloric dances. Her daughter, Suhaila Salimpour, resurrected Bal Anat in 2000 and continues to direct the performance company and run the Suhaila Salimpour School of Dance.

#### **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. 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 final performance of the 2014 Rotunda Dance Series will take place on Friday, December 5 at noon with a performance by Peruvian dance ensemble De Rompe y Raya. The 2015 Series will begin on Friday, February 20, 2015; more details on the 2015 Rotunda Dance Series will be announced this fall.

**Calendar Editors please note:**

**Who:** Rotunda Dance Series: Bal Anat and Karavansaray Dance 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, November 7, 2014, Noon

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

Images available for download:

[http://dancersgroup.org/?attachment\\_id=10877](http://dancersgroup.org/?attachment_id=10877)

[http://dancersgroup.org/?attachment\\_id=10876](http://dancersgroup.org/?attachment_id=10876)

*Photos of Bal Anat, by Pixie Vision*

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