

For Immediate Release
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FREE performances in San Francisco City Hall Announced
Rotunda Dance Series 2014 Season

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

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—December 9, 2013—Bringing many of the Bay Area's most celebrated dance companies to San Francisco City Hall, the **Rotunda Dance Series** is thrilled to announce the artists presenting performances throughout 2014. Set amidst the grandeur of San Francisco City Hall's Rotunda, these FREE lunchtime presentations bring dance forms from across the globe to this magnificent venue. All performances begin at 12noon.

The **Rotunda Dance Series** 2014 Dance Companies:

- March 7:** Gamelan Sekar Jaya
- April 4:** Diamano Coura West African Dance Company
- May 2:** La Tania Baile Flamenco Company (part of Bay Area Dance Week)
- June 5:** Opening of the San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival
- August 1:** Dohee Lee
- September 5:** Garrett + Moulton Productions
- October 3:** Dimensions Dance Theater
- November 7:** Fall Festival Feature Performance
- December 5:** Sean Dorsey Dance

March 7, 2014: Gamelan Sekar Jaya

Gamelan Sekar Jaya, an internationally acclaimed group of musicians and dancers, has made the performing arts of Bali its specialty. Founded in 1979, the sixty-member ensemble has presented hundreds of concerts throughout the United States as well as in Canada, Mexico and Bali. The group is well known throughout Indonesia and worldwide. Success arises not only from devotion to traditional repertoire but also from innovative work. It is regarded as "the finest Balinese gamelan outside of Indonesia" (*Tempo* magazine). GSJ is the only non-Balinese group to receive a Dharma Kusuma—Bali's highest award for artistic achievement. In 2014, GSJ celebrates its 35th Anniversary. After an historic appearance with the San Francisco Symphony in June, the group will re-connect with its artistic roots by touring Bali and appearing at the prestigious Bali Arts Festival in July 2014. At the Rotunda Series, GSJ's angklung and dance ensembles will perform a selection of works that draw upon the sweet and gentle tones of angklung with pieces that span the wide spectrum of Balinese angklung and dance repertoire, in arrangements that celebrate the beauty of the Rotunda's stunning architectural design. (gsj.org)

April 4, 2014: Diamano Coura West African Dance Company

Diamano Coura West African Dance Company is a nonprofit cultural organization dedicated to the preservation, education and appreciation of traditional West African music, dance, theater and culture. Since its inception in 1975, Diamano Coura—under the direction of Emmy Award-winner Dr. Zak Diouf and Artistic Director Naomi Diouf—has implemented its mission through ongoing workshops, performances, youth programs, national and international touring engagements, lecture demonstrations, community outreach and creative partnership programs with renowned artists and performing companies. Diamano Coura in the Senegalese Wolof language means "those who bring the message." (diamanocoura.org)

May 2, 2014: La Tania Baile Flamenco Company (part of Bay Area Dance Week)

La Tania Baile Flamenco Company and school of traditional flamenco dance and music based in Oakland is directed by award winning dancer, and choreographer La Tania who has been performing flamenco for three decades. The mission of the company is to share the authentic beauty and power of the art of flamenco. In 2007 after 25 years of touring, La Tania decided to settle in the Bay Area and begin a life dedicated to sharing her knowledge of the art of flamenco and initiated La Tania Baile Flamenco School & Company. (lataniaflamenco.com)

June 5, 2014: Opening of the San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival

The June Rotunda performance will feature artists selected through the January auditions for the 2014 San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival. This will be the 36th annual Festival, which has important national significance as a leading stage for Americans sustaining dance forms from around the world. Alastair Macauley, dance critic for *The New York Times* calls this Festival “a glorious achievement.” He has written: “What other city in the world has anything like the San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival? Residents of the Bay Area perform the dances of their original cultures — from across the globe, styles with radically different purposes — to an audience that does not consist primarily of those already familiar with those forms.” (sfethnidancefestival.org)

August 1, 2014: Dohee Lee

Born on Jeju Island in South Korea, Dohee Lee studied Korean dance, music, percussion and vocals at the master level. Since her arrival in the US she has been a vital contributor to both the traditional and contemporary arts landscape of the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond. Dohee’s work focuses on integration of traditional forms and contemporary arts. Lee's distinctive and profound performance style evokes the full spectrum of human emotion, the primordial, futuristic, visible and invisible realms. A review that appeared in the Chicago Tribune stated, “Lee unfurled an extraordinary lexicon of vocal colors, tones and textures. Yet she deftly controlled these otherworldly sounds...with her sinuous, thoroughly personalized one-woman choreography, self-styled art form.” (doheelee.com)

September 5, 2014: Garrett + Moulton Productions

Garrett + Moulton Productions is a San Francisco based performing arts organization that is co-directed by choreographers Janice Garrett and Charles Moulton. Dedicated to the presentation of live performances of dance and music, the company produces an annual home performance season, tours internationally, and offers an array of educational programs in San Francisco, throughout the US, and abroad. Since 2008 Garrett and Moulton have collaborated on five full-length works that have received popular and critical acclaim. Honors include a 2010 Isadora Duncan Dance Award (“Izzie”) for “Best Company Performance” for *The Illustrated Book of Invisible Stories*, three 2011 Izzie nominations for *The Experience of Flight in Dreams* and

recognition by the San Francisco Chronicle for *StringWreck* as one of the “Top 10-Best Performances of 2008.” (garrettmoulton.org)

October 3, 2014: Dimensions Dance Theater

For four decades under the leadership of Co-Founder and Artistic Director Deborah Vaughan, Dimensions Dance Theater has dedicated itself to creating, performing and teaching dance that reflects the lives and historical experience of African Americans. Under Vaughan’s artistic leadership, Dimensions Dance Theater presents traditional African dances, as well as original contemporary choreography drawn from African, Jazz and Modern dance idioms. Its repertory includes original works by its award-winning artistic director along with commissioned works by some of the most acclaimed choreographers in Africa and the African diaspora. Since 1993 the company has spearheaded Rites of Passage, an educational program serving more than 850 children and youth each year. Rites of Passage has been recognized with a Marcus Foster Foundation Award and the prestigious Jefferson Award, known as the “Nobel Prize for public service.” (dimensionsdance.org)

November 7, 2014: Fall Festival Feature Performance

The November Rotunda performance will feature an artist or company selected through the auditions for the June 2014 San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival. The artists will be chosen due to their exemplary work with children, and local youth will be integrated into the performance.

December 5, 2014: Sean Dorsey Dance

Sean Dorsey is an award-winning San Francisco-based choreographer, dancer and writer. Recognized as the U.S.’ first acclaimed transgender modern dance choreographer, Dorsey has won audiences and accolades from San Francisco to New York with his powerful dance-theater. Dorsey is also the founder and Artistic Director of Fresh Meat Productions, the nation’s first organization to create, present and tour year-round multidisciplinary transgender arts programs. Fresh Meat’s programs include the popular annual Fresh Meat Festival of transgender and queer performance, Sean Dorsey Dance’s local and touring performances, community residencies and media arts events. (seandorseydance.com)

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About Dancers’ Group (dancersgroup.org) Dancers’ Group promotes the visibility and viability of dance. Founded in 1982, they 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.

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.

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