

For Immediate Release
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Rotunda Dance Series: San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival Opening with El Tunante
Presented by Dancers' Group and World Arts West,
in partnership with Grants for the Arts and
San Francisco City Hall

Free

Friday, June 3, 2016
12 Noon
San Francisco City Hall

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—April 30, 2016—In their sixth season of free monthly dance performances in San Francisco City Hall's extraordinary rotunda, Dancers' Group and World Arts West are once again partnering to bring audiences lunchtime glimpses into movement and musical traditions from around the world.

This June, the Rotunda Dance Series presents the opening of the San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival with El Tunante. Founded 30 years ago, El Tunante will perform *Marinera Norteña*, a traditional dance with its origins in Peru's struggle for independence from Spain in the 1800's. The *marinera* and its predecessor, the *zamacueca*, originated in crowded colonial ports, merging stylized Spanish court dance and lively African rhythms and footwork with indigenous Peruvian forms. Within a tight sequence of coquettish dancing, partners enact a romantic game of cat and mouse. The men move close and the women move closer. The partners never touch, and never take their eyes off one another. The dance is intense and formal, with fluttering handkerchiefs to reveal what happens in the heart.

This event will serve as the grand opening of the 2016 **San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival**, which will run June 3-19, featuring dance and music from more than 20 world cultures, including 12 world premieres and two North American premieres. This year, the Festival celebrates its 38th year with performances by 32 extraordinary Bay Area dance companies.

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.. For more information, visit sfethnicedancefestival.org.

The Rotunda Dance Series will continue monthly through 2016, highlighting many cultural traditions from across the world, including all-female hip hop, physically integrated dance, and clogging, among others. The Series brings many of the Bay Area's most celebrated dance companies to San Francisco City Hall's rotunda space for free monthly noon-time performances. The Rotunda Dance series is presented by Dancers' Group and World Arts West in partnership with Grants for the Arts and San Francisco City Hall.

About El Tunante

El Tunante, the first dance academy of Marinera Norteña in Northern California, was formed in Peru thirty years ago to promote the Peruvian Marinera nationally and internationally. The group has been in the US since 1998. The company produces quality dancers that compete at an international level and Ruiz dedicates his time to teach and mentor professional dancer.

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 itself. In response to the needs of its constituents, Dancers' Group has evolved to fulfill a dual function as a service organization and as a presenter of performance opportunities that maximize the visibility of dance in the Bay Area.

Save the Dates for the rest of the 2016 Rotunda Dance Series

Friday, August 5: NAKA Dance Theater

Friday, September 2: Mix'd Ingrdnts

Friday, October 7: AXIS Dance Company

Friday, November 4: Mussel Rock Cloggers

Friday, December 9: Artists TBA

Calendar Editors please note:

Who: Rotunda Dance Series: San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival Opening with El Tunante

What: Free monthly dance performance, presented by Dancers' Group and World Arts West, in partnership with Grants for the Arts and San Francisco City Hall. It is also the opening event of the 38th annual San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival.

Cost: Free

Where: City Hall, San Francisco

When: Friday, June 3, 2016, Noon

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

Image available for download:

http://dancersgroup.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/C_EDF_110219_EITunante_114.jpg

Photo by RJ Muna

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