Nicaragua Danza

Nicaragua Danza, Hijos del Maíz was founded on April 6, 2011, with the objective to promote and disseminate our Nicaraguan identity through traditional dances. Most of our dancers, both children and young adults are of Nicaraguan origin who seek to learn more of their roots. Under the direction of Luis León, Nicaragua Danza, Hijos del Maíz annually hosts the 1stAnnual Nicaraguan Folkloric Festival, in which a variety of dances and music from all regions of Nicaragua is presented, now going on their 7th year. We are proud to have been the first Nicaraguan dance group to audition and perform at the Ethnic Dance Festival in 2016 and were recipients of the Mythili Kumar Emerging artist award in 2017.

PERFORMERS:

William Alvarez

Levent Asyali

Tia Covington

Flor Díaz

Jenny Espinoza

Moises Estrada

Dara Fonseca

Luis León

Josette Muños

Andrea Pérez

Rebecca Pérez

Carmella Rocha

Sarath Sok

Grace Torres

Alafia Dance Ensemble

Alafia Dance Ensemble (ADE) founded in 1995 by Valerie Watson in order to showcase the beauty of African Haitian dance. The majority of ADE dancers are students or former students of City College of San Francisco. Some recent performances include: 30th Ethnic Dance Festival, World’s Culture Concert of San Francisco State University, Haitian Flay Day Celebration at Ashkenaz, La Pena Cultural Center, Great American Music Hall, Laguna Honda Hospital, Presidio’s Golden Gate Club, and City College Dance Concert.

PERFROMERS:

Javon Brandon

Gabriella Brito

Tia Covington

Laure Fleurentin

Brigitte Knight

Mariella Morales

Rita Pantaleon

Tahjanee Singleton

Sarath Sok

Tiombe Valone

DIMENSIONS DANCE THEATER:

Under the continuing artistic leadership of co-founder Deborah Brooks Vaughan for the past 45 years, Dimensions Dance Theater (DDT) is a dance company and school whose mission is to create, perform, and teach dance that reflects the lives and historical experience of the African Diaspora. We fulfill this mission through the presentation of traditional African dances and contemporary choreography drawn from African, jazz, and modern dance idioms.  DDT has garnered national and international acclaim for its performances. The company has traveled to Nigeria, Jordan, Germany, Zimbabwe, and Cuba, and has danced throughout the United States. DDT has advanced African American dance as an art form through a series of interdisciplinary collaborations with composers, musicians and singers working in a wide variety of African and African American traditions: Hugh Masekela, the Edwin Hawkins Singers (gospel), Street Sounds (a capella spirituals and blues), Cab Calloway (jazz), Chanticleer (a capella spirituals), Omar Sosa (Cuban jazz pianist), and Anthony Brown and Fifth Stream Music. DDT has also become known for its cross cultural and issues oriented collaborations, bridging cultural, racial, and ethnic differences through the arts. In September 1994 the company staged a full length cross cultural collaborative concert with Lily Cai Chinese Dance Company that confronted rising racial hostilities between the African American and Asian communities. In 1996, Dimensions premiered another issue driven community collaboration:  “Project Panther/Phase I: All Power to the People” was a large scale effort to create a truthful portrayal of the origins, intentions, accomplishments, and significance of the Black Panther Party.

PERFROMERS:

Denice Simpson Braga

Erik Lee

Bridgett Lott

Lavinia Mitchell

Dorcas Mba

Valrie Sanders

Justin Sharlman

Phylicia Stroud

Latanya d. Tigne

Aguas Dance Company 2018

need company specific

DANDHA DA HORA

need company specific

EL WAH

EL WAH Movement Dance Theatre is a pick up company which presents folkloric and fusion pieces rooted in an African aesthetics.  Colette’s artistic work is in her blood, being first generation Haitian on both sides, Ms. Eloi has spent decades studying African Diaspora Cultural dance traditions, through travel and as a professional African diaspora dancer locally, nationally, and internationally.  Ms. Eloi has traveled to Africa and her diaspora to research and exchange culture dance with master artists and in cultural communities that retain their indigenous dance traditions. Also, she has danced professionally in groups such as Dimensions Dance Theater, Nuba Dance and in the UC Berkeley dance department where Colette’s  modern dance knowledge was cultivated. As a member since 1989, of the unique and rich cultural center, the Malonga, in Oakland, Ms. Colette, as she is fondly known by her Haitian dance students, has spent her formative years as a dancer immersed in a broad range of classes rooted in African culture. Ms. Eloi  feels forever blessed that this rich and broad cultural mecca in the Bay Area, ultimately lead her back to her roots. This awakening of self inspired her to pursue her Master of Fine Arts from the California Institute of Integral Studies, in Creative Inquiry, focusing on oral traditions of Africa.  Colette considers herself a folklorist in that she sings, drums and and dances the traditions of the cultures she has sought out. Ms. Eloi’s combined, experience, formal education, and her own unique creativity and love of The epic, combined allows her to craft one of a kind dance performances. Performances like: the opening inaugural ceremony of the Black Woman is God 2016, and her latest 2017 international collaboration with the National Theatre of Ghana entitled Alkebulan’s Awakening, which Colette created in collaboration with Stephany Ursula Yamoah, Deputy Director of the National Theater of Ghana, Dance Company. Colette has been dubbed a “New Traditionalist”, and audience members have called her work “metropolitan”, “fierce”, “real”, and “unexpected”, leaving the watcher with a visceral feeling.

The Cali Dance

Cuban dancer and choreographer, Yismari Ramos Tellez, graduated from the National School of Art in Havana, Cuba with a degree in modern and Afro-Cuban folkloric dance in 1992. For six years Yismari danced with the Tony Menendez Dance Company in Cuba, and later for the Ballet de la Televisión Cubana in Havana. She regularly performed on television, in video, and in live shows for the top bands in Cuba. Yismari also performed with the renowned Lady Salsa. She toured in Italy, Russia, Spain, Australia, New Zealand, Germany, Ecuador, Canada, Switzerland, Holand, France, and Panama. She also has 25 years of experience as a teacher and teaches classes all over the San Francisco Bay Area. She was the artistic director and choreographer of Las Que Son Son and currently is of Las Puras and The Cali Dance .

PERFROMERS:

Yismari Ramos Tellez

Katy Yong

Denmis Bain

Yeni Lucero

Enmanuel Colombo

Chloe Cambell

Jany Cruzado

Alayo Dance Company

Alayo Dance Company was founded was formed in 2001 by Ramos and is currently the resident company of CubaCaribe. As director and choreographer, his work is an innovative fusion of Afro-Cuban modern, folkloric and popular Cuban dance. He eloquently articulates his aesthetic vision through a synthesis of these dance styles, citing from each traditions, movements, narratives and concepts indicative of Cuban culture. It is far more diverse than most of the modern dance circuit. In Cuba, at the National School of Arts, all dance students are taught modern and traditional styles of dance and music and the forms are not considered as disassociated as they are in the United States. Combining elements of both to produce Afro-Cuban contemporary dance allows the artist to tell a rich story from a broad palette of movement styles that is indicative of Cuban culture, but the combination of which is rarely seen in the Bay Area. Alayo Dance Company was featured in "Dance Across America," published in National Geographic Magazine (2006). The Company has performed throughout the San Francisco Bay Area at venues such as Theater Artaud, ODC Theater, Dance Mission Theater, Herbst Theater, Laney Theater, Sonoma Country Wine Theater, and La Peña Cultural Center, and have presented work in the Black Choreographer's Festival, The CubaCaribe Festival, and Intersection's Culture and Flow. Alayo was one of the first American companies to perform at the 2010 Festival del Caribe at Teatro Martí and partnered with Dance Brigade in July 2011 to perform in Havana’s Teatro Mella in Cuba. Alayo has choreographed more than ten evening length works for his company, which fuse modern, Cuban folkloric, and popular dance - a fusion that is intrinsic to Cuban culture but rarely seen in the Bay Area - and that center around social themes such as health and racism from an Afro-Cuban perspective. Hailed by dance critic Rita Felciano as "the best Afro-Cuban dancer whose choreography stands well beyond traditional modes”, Other recent highlights include, recognition as "Best Dance Dynamo" in the SF Bay Guardian's "Best of the Bay" (2009), receiving the SF Bay Guardian 2010 Goldie Award and his work 'Goodbye' was named one of five 'Best Premieres of the Year,' published in Dance Europe (2016).

Performers:

Adonis Martin Quiñones

Delvis Savigne Friñon

Alexander Vargas

Marshall J. Amey

Margot Hodenfield

Zoe Klein

Fredrika Keefer

Jacinta Vlach

Emanuel Alejandro Colombo

Edisnel Gonzalez xxxxxxx

Denmis Bain Savigne.

They are joined by special guest dancers of TurfInc

Paul Flores

Paul S. Flores last play "On The Hill: I am Alex Nieto" (2016) dramatizes the life and death of Alex Nieto who was killed by San Francisco Police Department, using music, dance and theater as a powerful tool for communities divided by issues of police violence, racism, gentrification and economic disparity to discover opportunities for solutions, healing and unification. Flores previous play PLACAS (2012) was based on testimonies of members of MS-13 in California barrios. One of his newest plays, We Have IrÃ, is commissioned by Yerba Buena Center for The Arts and follows Afro-Cuban immigrant artists and their connection to LucumÃ­ religious traditions. Flores plays have been produced at Brava Theater, GALA Hispanic Theatre, New Jersey Performing Arts Center, Pregones Theatre, Abrons Art Center, Taller Puertorriquena, Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center, InterAct Theater, DiverseWorks, Su Teatro, South Coast Rep, and many more. Flores is a Doris Duke Artist, a MAP Fund awardee, a Gerbode-Hewlett Theater commission recipient, a NALAC Fund for Arts recipient, and 2011 SF Weekly Best Politically Active Hip-hop Performer. He is co-founder of Youth Speaks, and currently an adjunct professor of Theater at the University of San Francisco.

Bill Martinez

Bill Martinezis an immigration attorney who has also produced and managed cultural events in the San Francisco Bay Area since 1973. A native San Franciscan, he is a graduate of the University of San Francisco and Hastings College of the Law. He has worked in the Community Law Collective (’74-’79), New College of California School of Law (’79-’83) and the Volunteer Legal Services Program of the Bar Association of San Francisco (’84-’93). In 1981, he co-founded the Encuentro del Canto Popular, a San Francisco-based Latin American music festival. His work with the Encuentro led him to become one of the nation’s leading experts in U.S.-Cuba cultural exchanges and artists’ visas. He co-founded the Latino Entertainment Partners which produced historically significant concerts of Cuban artists.

Yoram Savion

Yoram Savion is co-founder of YAK Films, a multimedia company dedicated to filming movement-based art. For over 10 years, we have traveled the world to reveal unique dance talent in diverse urban landscapes. We promote innovative filming techniques using the latest gear that will fit in our backpack yet deliver the highest image quality possible.