

# PENINSULA

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## INTERNATIONAL DANCE FESTIVAL

For Immediate Release

## **PENINSULA INTERNATIONAL DANCE FESTIVAL 2024**

*CELEBRATING DIVERSITY IN DANCE*

**SHOWCASING 21 COMPANIES REPRESENTING THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF  
ARMENIA, CHINA, CONGO, GREECE, HAWAI'I, INDIA, JAPAN,  
MEXICO, PERU, PHILIPPINES, SPAIN, USA AND MORE**

**TWO PERFORMANCES: JULY 20 & 21, SAN MATEO PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**

[www.peninsulalivelyarts.org](http://www.peninsulalivelyarts.org)



Festival Video link: <https://youtu.be/lwIjhKvrQpc?si=6MwtAfVecYY91YIB>

San Mateo, Calif. (June 4, 2024) — The **Peninsula International Dance Festival** returns for its much-anticipated 2024 edition, promising a captivating showcase of traditional dances from around the world. From sacred rituals to secular celebrations, the festival will feature performances by 21 esteemed international dance and music companies that reside in the Bay Area. Produced by **Peninsula Lively Arts**, two performances are scheduled for Saturday, July 20 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, July 21 at 2 p.m., at the San Mateo Performing Arts Center.

This year's festival will be a vibrant tapestry of movement, rhythm, and culture, presenting a kaleidoscope of traditional dance forms spanning five continents. From the fiery passion of Spanish flamenco to the exuberant energy of Indian Bollywood and Khatak, from the thunderous beats of Japanese Taiko to the primal rhythms of Congolese drumming, from high atop the Peruvian Andes to

the timeless traditions of Armenia and to the emerging thrill of American hip-hop and breakdancing, audiences will be transported on a journey across borders and cultural expressions.

With performances ranging from grand spectacles by renowned companies to intimate solos of virtuosic dancing, 250 artists, resplendent in vibrant original costumes, will grace the stage, bringing to life magnificent dancing -- some based on centuries-old traditions, others in new interpretations - all with passion, skill, and authenticity.

"With each step, we embrace the diversity that defines our community," said **Christine Leslie**, Peninsula Lively Arts Executive Producing Director/CEO. "The Peninsula International Dance Festival is a celebration of unity through the universal language of dance. The growing success and enthusiastic reception for this festival is a testament to the beauty of cultural exchange and the power of artistic expression. We look forward to presenting this season's artists and to welcoming the public for a weekend of powerful live performances."

This year's Peninsula International Dance Festival proudly welcomes to the stage many of the Bay Area's award-winning ethnic dance and music interpreters led by distinguished master teachers and choreographers in an exuberant showcase of sacred, secular, traditional and community work.

Curated by **Gregory Amato** and **Chloe Watson**, the impressive **2024 Festival Artist Roster** features:

**Antara Asthaayi Dance** (India); **Azteca Dancers/Calpulli Tonalehqueh** (Mexico); **Ballet Folklórico Mexicano de Carlos Moreno** (Mexico); **Ballet Ndolo Brazzaville** (West Central Africa Congo); **Chitresh Das Company** (India); **Ensembles Ballet Folklórico de San Francisco** (Mexico); **Feng Ye Dance** (China); **Gurus of Dance** (India); **Hālau o Keikiali'i/Kaululehua Hawaiian Cultural Center** (Hawai'i); **International Performing Arts of America** (China); **Lena Dakessian** (Armenia); **Melissa Cruz Flamenco** (Spain); **Minoan Dancers** (Greece); **Parangal Dance Company** (Philippines); **Peninsula Ballet Theatre** (USA); **Peru Expressions** (Peru); **Taiko SOBA** (Japan); **Theatre Flamenco of San Francisco** (Spain); **Tradición Peruana** with guest company, **Peru Cimarrón** (Peru); and **TRIBE** (USA Hip-Hop).

Dance writer **Jennifer Norris** enthusiastically wrote about last year's festival: "As the show progressed, I appreciated the range of expression, use of props, and varied costume designs which reflect the climate and natural resources of the area from which each dance originates. These organizations share a commitment to preserving and sharing their artistry and culture."

Based in the heart of San Mateo County, Peninsula Lively Arts is the producing organization for **Peninsula Ballet Theatre**, the **Peninsula School of the Arts**, **Peninsula Hip-Hop Productions**, **Peninsula Broadway Theater**, and the **Peninsula International Dance Festival**. The festival is an annual celebration of cultural diversity through the art of dance. Established in 2022, the Peninsula International Dance Festival aims to promote cross-cultural understanding and appreciation by presenting a wide range of traditional dance forms from around the world that thrive in the San Francisco Bay Area.

**Tickets for the Peninsula International Dance Festival 2024** are priced at \$60, \$45 and \$30. Discounts for seniors (age 65 and up) and juniors (age 18 and below) are \$5-off per ticket; Group Sales of 10 or more enjoy a 10% discount. Purchase tickets online at [www.peninsulalivelyarts.org](http://www.peninsulalivelyarts.org). Two

performances are scheduled: Saturday, July 20, 2024 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, July 21 at 2 p.m., San Mateo Performing Arts Center, 600 North Delaware St. This venue features ample free public parking.

Peninsula Lively Arts gratefully acknowledges the support of the **San Mateo County Arts Commission, NetSuite, Concar Enterprises,** and the **David and Lucile Packard Foundation.** Media Sponsors of the 2024 Festival include **KQED, San Francisco Chronicle** and **Silicon Valley Magazine.**

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Please connect for feature interviews, photographs/video and press credentials.

Festival Video link: <https://youtu.be/lwJhKVrQpc?si=6MwtAfVecYY91YIB>

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