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**BRAZIL'S PREMIERE DANCE COMPANY
BALÉ FOLCLÓRICO DA BAHIA BRINGS SACRED HERITAGE
TO ZELLERBACH HALL SUNDAY, MARCH 6 AT 7:00 P.M.**

SchoolTime: Special one-hour performance for students Monday, March 7 at 11:00 a.m.

BERKELEY, January 31, 2011—With an “explosion of sights and sounds,” (*The New York Times*) the exuberant Afro-Brazilian dance company **Balé Folclórico da Bahia** returns to Cal Performances' Zellerbach Hall with its new production *Sacred Heritage* on **Sunday, March 6 at 7:00 p.m.** Led by artistic director **José Carlos Arandiba** and founder/choreographer **Walson Botelho**, the 32-member troupe of dancers, musicians and singers will perform a mix of works from African and South American traditions such as slave dances, *capoeira*, samba and dances celebrating Carnival. *Sacred Heritage* includes new works celebrating the rich Afro-Brazilian religious tradition through a series of dances honoring the most important African deities; these dances were produced as part of the company's 20th anniversary in 2008. Classic works from its repertory will also be performed such as “Capoeira,” a dance based on martial arts that originated in Africa and was later brought to Brazil; and “Afixirê,” translated “Dance of Happiness,” that pays homage to all African countries that influence the Brazilian culture. Combining thunderous drumming, furious movement and hallucinogenic colors, the performance promises to have the audience dancing in the aisles.

Balé Folclórico da Bahia will give a *SchoolTime* performance for Bay Area students Monday, March 7, at 11:00 a.m. in Zellerbach Hall. Tickets available in advance only.

BALÉ FOLCLÓRICO DA BAHIA

Based in Salvador in the northern state of Bahia, **Balé Folclórico da Bahia** was founded in 1988 by Walson Botelho and **Ninho Reis** and debuted at the Jinville Dance Festival, the largest and most important dance festival in Brazil. The population of Bahia is largely descended from slaves in West Africa; it is this culture, although part of a larger melting pot—Indigena peoples and influences from Europe through Portuguese colonization—that gives Balé

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Folclórico da Bahia its distinctiveness. As the only professional folk dance company in Brazil, it has toured extensively throughout its homeland, and was named “the Best Dance Company in Brazil” in 1990, 1993, 1996 and 2000.

Since the troupe’s 1992 European debut in Berlin, it has achieved considerable international success, in particular, at France’s Biennale de la Danse in Lyon in 1994 and 1996, the Sydney Festival and Spoleto Festival USA in 1997 and 2000, and has performed in many of the important concert halls around the world on its frequent tours. The company has visited more than 90 cities in North America and last appeared in Berkeley in 2004. “No company better embodies the idea of black dance in Africa and beyond than the vibrant Balé Folclórico da Bahia” (*The New York Times*).

José Carlos Arandiba has been artistic director of Balé Folclórico da Bahia since 1992. He was a former solo performer with the Contemporary Dance Group at the Federal University of Bahia and is an internationally recognized teacher and director whose work has been seen on televisions in France, Germany and Holland. General Director and co-founder **Walson Botelho** is a choreographer and former performer who graduated from the Federal University of Bahia with a degree in Cultural Anthropology. He has worked as a dance director of the Cultural Foundation of Bahia, production director for the Balé Teatro Castro Alves, in Salvador, and as an assistant director, dancer, singer and musician with the company Viva Bahia. He choreographed over half of the works in *Sacred Heritage*.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Balé Folclórico da Bahia’s *Sacred Heritage*** on **Sunday, March 6 at 7:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$22.00, \$30.00, \$38.00, \$46.00, and \$52.00**. Tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperformances.org; and at the door. Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC Berkeley students. UC faculty and staff, senior citizens, other students and UC Alumni Association members receive a \$5 discount (Special Events excluded). For more information, call Cal Performances at (510) 642-9988, or visit the Cal Performances web site at www.calperformances.org.

For select performances, Cal Performances offers UCB student, faculty and staff, senior, and community rush tickets. Rush tickets are announced three hours prior to a performance and are available in person only at the Ticket Office beginning one hour before the performance; quantities may be limited. Rush ticket sales are limited to one ticket per person; all sales are cash only. Rush ticket prices are \$10.00 for UCB students; \$15.00 for UCB faculty and staff (UCB ID required) and seniors age 65 or older; and \$20.00 for all other community members. Information is available on Cal Performances' Facebook page and at 510-642-9988; press 2 for the rush hotline, three hours prior to a performance only.

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Cal Performances' 2010/11 Season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Sunday, March 6 at 7:00 p.m.

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

World Stage

Balé Folclórico da Bahia

Sacred Heritage

José Carlos Arandiba, artistic director and choreographer

Wilson Botelho, choreographer

Program: The Brazilian troupe of dancers, musicians and singers performs *Sacred Heritage*, a mix of choreography from African and South American traditions, including slave dances, *capoeira*, samba and dances celebrating Carnival.

Tickets: \$22.00, \$30.00, \$38.00, \$46.00, and \$52.00, with special half-price tickets for children 16 and under for all performances; available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperformances.org; and at the door.

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Monday, March 7 at 11:00 a.m.

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley

SCHOOLTIME PERFORMANCE

Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

World Stage

Balé Folclórico da Bahia

Program: The Brazilian troupe of dancers, musicians, and singers give a one-hour performance for Bay Area school children.

Tickets: \$5.00 per student or adult chaperone, available in advance only through Cal Performances at (510) 642-9988. *SchoolTime* performances are open to students in kindergarten through grade 12 in Bay Area public and private schools. Supplemental study guides for the classroom are provided. For more information about the *SchoolTime* program, contact the *SchoolTime* coordinator at Cal Performances by email at eduprograms@calperfs.berkeley.edu or by phone at (510) 642-0212.

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