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**BAYANIHAN PHILIPPINE NATIONAL DANCE COMPANY  
BRINGS THE COLOR, SOUND, AND SPLENDOR OF  
TRADITIONAL FILIPINO CULTURE TO CAL PERFORMANCES  
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, AT 8:00 P.M.**

**BERKELEY, AUGUST 17, 2010**—The spirit of *bayanihan*—the ancient Filipino tradition of cooperative effort for the common good—infuses the work of the **Bayanihan Philippine National Dance Company**, which brings its vibrant national dance and musical heritage to Zellerbach Hall on **Friday, September 24, at 8:00 p.m.** The 25 dancers are accompanied by eight musicians playing traditional Filipino and western stringed and percussive instruments. The four-decade-old company will stage dances representing the many rhythmic and colorful traditions of the Philippines, transforming them into a “a collection of glossy souvenirs” (*Los Angeles Times*). In several suites of dances, the troupe, lead by **Suzie Moya Benitex** and musical director **Lucrecia R. Kasilag**, will showcase religious dances, tell tales of ancient struggle and creation, celebrate the waters that surround and replenish the land, reenact grand Filipino traditions, pay tribute to a beloved national artist, and depict the struggle and splendor of royal romance.

**PROGRAM**

The Bayanihan Philippine National Dance Company’s production at Cal Performances opens with *Mestisaje*, which means “fusion,” “unity,” and “a dynamic step forward.” This cross-cultural expression of sound, color, and movement presents the tradition of Christian Filipino dance. It will be followed by a collection of dances that retell the beloved epic tale of the construction of the mountainside rice terraces of northern Luzon island; these terraces, one of the wonders of the world, were built 20 centuries ago without tools.

*Surging to the Crest*, a celebration of water, follows. The dances in this act depict adventures on the high seas, the fun and excitement experienced by boatmen navigating rapids, and the exuberant combination of work and play that washerwomen find in their daily chores.

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After intermission, the Bayanihan company presents a suite of dances celebrating the spirit of Filipinos and their love of tradition. “Taginting” displays the skillful balancing of wine glasses on hands and heads, and “Ang Maya” recreates in a musical extravaganza the Philippine love for nature and the environment.

*Bellezas Filipinas*, a tribute to national artist **Fernando Amorsolo**, captures and replicates in dance and music the country scenes depicted by this great Philippine painter. The evening concludes with *Mindanao Splendor*, a dance tells a dramatic tale of love lost and regained through the clamor of gongs, the flash of weaponry as warriors prime for battle, and the exquisite garments of royal maidens.

### **BAYANIHAN PHILIPPINE NATIONAL DANCE COMPANY**

The **Bayanihan Philippine National Dance Company** traces its 43-year history to Philippine Women’s University, where in 1957 **Dr. Helena Z. Benitez** founded a dance company with several objectives: to research ethnic rites, tribal folklore, and regional folkways; to collect indigenous art forms as expressed in music, dance, literature, arts, and crafts; to distill and transform these cultural traditions into theatrical presentations; and to promote international understanding through cultural exchange and performances abroad. Dr. Benitez remains on the board of the Company, and the objectives she created continue to guide the group.

The Bayanihan company first performed abroad at the 1958 Brussels World’s Fair and was featured on *The Ed Sullivan Show*’s nationwide television broadcast from the Fair. The next year, the company made its Broadway debut and was acclaimed the “Cinderella of Dance Theater” by New York critics who were enthralled by the dancers’ skill, grace, and enthusiasm, as well as the company’s ability to transfer indigenous dance and music from the countryside to the stage without sacrificing authenticity.

In the decades since, the Bayanihan company has traveled the world many times over, mounting 15 international tours longer than six months and taking more than one hundred brief trips to dance at international events. In total, the troupe has performed in 55 countries on five continents. It was the first non-American dance company to perform at New York’s Lincoln

Center, as well as the first Philippine cultural group to perform in Russia, the People's Republic of China, and South America. "[I]t has kept going when other national folkloric troupes have folded with the governments and post-independence dreams that created them" (*Washington Post*).

In 2000, the company was officially designated the National Folk Dance Company of the Philippines. Today, in addition to Dr. Helena Z. Benitez, it is led and supported by **Dr. Lucrecia R. Kasilag**, president and music director; **Suzie Moya Benitez**, artistic director; **Isabel A. Santos**, costume director; **Alfredo Q. Gomez, Jr.**, lighting designer and technical director; **Ferdinand B. Jose**, dance director; **Melito S. Vale Cruz**, deputy music director; and **Helen Legion**, costume mistress. The company's official website is [www.bayanihannationaldanceco.ph](http://www.bayanihannationaldanceco.ph).

#### **TICKET INFORMATION**

Tickets for the **Bayanihan Philippine National Dance Company** on **Friday, September 24** in Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$20.00, \$28.00, \$36.00, \$42.00, and \$48.00**. Tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at [www.calperformances.org](http://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](http://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 thanks Wells Fargo, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and Bank of America for major support of the 2010/11 Season.

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**CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:**

**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS**

**Friday, September 24 at 8:00 p.m.**

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

*World Stage*

**Bayanihan Philippine National Dance Company**

**Helena Z. Benitez**, founder

**Suzie Moya Benitez**, artistic director

**Ferdinand B. Jose**, dance director and choreographer

**Melito S. Vale Cruz**, music director

**Program:** The 25 dancers and eight musicians of the Bayanihan Philippine National Dance Company present a program of Filipino dance and music, including traditional and contemporary works.

**Tickets:** \$20.00, \$28.00, \$36.00, \$42.00, and \$48.00, 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](http://www.calperformances.org); and at the door.

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