

CONTACT:  
Christina Kellogg 510.643.6714  
ckellogg@calperfs.berkeley.edu  
Joe Yang 510.642.9121  
scyang@calperfs.berkeley.edu

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**COMPañIA FLAMENCA JOSÉ PORCEL RETURNS TO  
CAL PERFORMANCES WITH THE WEST COAST PREMIERE OF  
“GYPSY FIRE” ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19,  
IN ZELLERBACH HALL**

**BERKELEY, October 24, 2011**—**Compañia Flamenca José Porcel** returns to Cal Performances on **Saturday, November 19 at 8:00 p.m.** in **Zellerbach Hall** with the West Coast premiere of “Gypsy Fire” which traces flamenco dance to its root of traveling Gypsies in the 1400s and draws from local regions of Galicia, Aragon, Malaga, and Andalusia. A former lead dancer with the Spanish National Ballet, **José Porcel** demonstrates earliest known flamenco styles in a program that features both solo and ensemble works. His company includes eight dancers: **Leticia Calatayud, Tamara Calatayud, Tania Martin, Inmaculada Aranda, Rocio Martin, Benjamin Jimenez, Dario Alanis** and will be accompanied by six musicians: **Rocio Soto Garcia** (vocal), **Olivier Garcia** (vocal), **Pepe del Morao** (guitar), **Victor Marquez** (guitar), **Manuel Perez** (flute) and **Javier Fernandez** (percussion). The performance promises to be a vibrant explosion of rhythms, colors and emotions that is both “evocative and exciting” (Las Vegas Review-Journal).

Flamenco is a dance form that expresses overwhelming emotions of happiness and passion. While the origin of the flamenco is still undetermined, it is speculated that the emotional style originated as a folkdance in Andalucía in the 15th century during an encounter between the Gypsies and residents of southern Spain. The style incorporates a mix of Arabic-Egyptian, Jewish and Indian influences and later evolved with stylistic experimentation, refinement of expression and technical codification into its own distinct genre with many subgroups.

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Born in Sevilla, Spain **José Porcel** started dancing at age 13. When he turned 16 he started seriously studying dance with the great flamenco master Martín Vargas. He later moved to Madrid, continuing his studies with many talented teachers including Paco Romero, Isabel Quintero, Cristóbal Reyes, Pegro Azorín and José Granero. In 1994, he was featured soloist with the Ballet Nacional de España and was the lead dancer in “Medea”, “Grito” and “Los Tarantos” amongst others. In 1999, Porcel danced with the company of Rafael Aguilar as Torero in *Carmen* during a major tour of Germany and Switzerland. Under the direction of maestro Héctor Zaraspe, Porcel danced as soloist with the Los Angeles Philharmonic at the Hollywood Bowl, in 2000. That same year, he became the first dancer in the Compañía Española de Antonio Márquez, performing on an international tour, with over 20 sold-out performances. This was followed by a critically acclaimed tour of the United States during the 2001-2002 season. More information about José Porcel can be found at [www.joséporcel.com](http://www.joséporcel.com).

**Compañía Flamenca José Porcel** was founded in Madrid, Spain and is among the premier dance troupes of the flamenco dance form. The company last appeared at Cal Performance as part of a critically acclaimed 2008-2009 United States tour. The group is currently conducting a Canada/US 2011-2012 tour.

#### **TICKET INFORMATION**

Tickets for **Compañía Flamenco José Parcel** at **8:00 p.m.** in **Zellerbach Hall** are priced at **\$20.00, \$30.00, \$35.00, \$40.00, \$48.00, and \$58.00**. 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 two 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 for all other community members. Information is available at (510) 642-9988, press 2 for the rush hotline, two 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 2011/12 Season.

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**CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:**

**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS**

Saturday, November 19, 8:00 p.m.

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

*World Stage*

**Compañia Flamenca José Porcel**

*Gypsy Fire*

**José Porcel**, director & choreographer

**Program:** Dancing traditional and contemporary flamenco, choreographer José Porcel returns with his eponymously named company and its production *Gypsy Fire*.

**Tickets:** \$20.00, \$30.00, \$35.00, \$40.00, \$48.00 and \$58.00, 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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