

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS**  
**SPAIN'S MOST CELEBRATED FLAMENCO COMPANY**  
**BALLET FLAMENCO SARA BARAS**

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12 & SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13 IN ZELLERBACH HALL**

“It is a fact that, despite her youth, Sara Baras is part of the saga of great flamenco dancers.”  
– *El Mundo*

**BERKELEY, December 20, 2004** — Spain’s most famous contemporary flamenco star, Sara Baras, will bring her powerful, passionate dances to Cal Performances at Zellerbach Hall on **Saturday, February 12 at 8:00 p.m.** and **Sunday, February 13 at 7:00 p.m.** Twice honored with Spain’s most prestigious dance award, the *Premio Nacional de Danza*, Baras has been hailed world-wide for her passionate intensity and elegant spirit. Performing with her company, Baras will present the Bay Area premiere of her graceful suite of dances, *Sueños*, which returns to *flamenco puro*, the finest and most essential form of the art. The *Diario de Jerez* newspaper writes that Baras is “imbued with spicy grace by the salt mines of her native land, her arms and hands turn the dance that she interprets into velvet.”

**SARA BARAS**

Sara Baras was born in Cadiz, Spain in 1971. She began training at her mother’s flamenco school at age eight. At 18 she won first prize in a television talent contest and began to gain recognition for her extraordinary gifts as a dancer. By 1998 she had established Ballet Flamenco Sara Baras which debuted with the work *Sensaciones*, a journey through *palos*, traditional forms of flamenco that have no plot but emphasize the feminine aspects of the dance. The company’s second production is *Sueños*, which first opened in April of 1999 in Jerez, Spain. Paris’ *Le Figaro* called Baras “the most sensational discovery on the women’s [flamenco] scene – her dance is sculptural and magnificent, her footwork of a virtuosity rarely attained by a female flamenco dancer.”

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Recognized for her youth and beauty as well as for her talent as a dancer and choreographer, Sara Baras has made several appearances in the fashion world and taken part in many advertising campaigns. In 2002 Baras was named the “Face of Andalusia” and represents the Tourism Council of the Andalusian government. She was honored as the female representative of dance in Spain with a stamp issued by the Spanish postal system.

### **BALLET FLAMENCO SARA BARAS**

Ballet Flamenco Sara Baras, which has captivated audiences throughout the world with its dramatic choreography, phenomenal skill and sheer beauty, includes eight dancers and seven musicians. Music is as important to flamenco as dance, and musicians and dancers communicate intimately through sound and movement. Two guitarists, two singers, a percussionist and a violinist create haunting syncopated rhythms which work in symbiosis with the dancer’s explosive footwork and choreography. The company has toured extensively around the globe and won many awards. Recently they made flamenco box office history by selling out every night of a five-month show in Madrid, where Baras now makes her home.

Ballet Flamenco Sara Baras is Sara Baras (*director, choreographer, dancer*) and company dancers Auxi Fernández, Raúl Fernández, Cecilia Gómez, Ana González, Charo Pedraja, Raúl Prieto and María Vega. The musicians include José María Bandera, (*musical conductor, guitar*), Mario Montoya (*guitar*), Miguel de la Tolea (*singer*), Saul Quirós (*singer*), José Motos (*percussion*) and Amador Goñi (*violin*). The company will be joined at Cal Performances by guest dancer and choreographer José Serrano.

### **TICKET INFORMATION**

Tickets for **Ballet Flamenco Sara Baras Saturday, February 12 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, February 13 at 7 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$28.00, \$38.00, and \$56.00**. Tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at [www.calperfs.berkeley.edu](http://www.calperfs.berkeley.edu); and at the door. Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC Berkeley students. UC faculty and staff, senior citizens and other students receive a \$2 discount, and UC Alumni Association members receive a \$3 discount (Special Events excluded). For more information, call Cal Performances at (510) 642-9988, or visit the Cal Performances web site at [www.calperfs.berkeley.edu](http://www.calperfs.berkeley.edu).

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*San Francisco Chronicle*, *San Francisco* magazine, and KDFC Classical 102.1 FM are media sponsors of Cal Performances' 2004/05 performing arts season.

Cal Performances' 2004/2005 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo

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**CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:**

**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS**

**Saturday, February 12 at 8 p.m.**  
**Sunday, February 13 at 7 p.m.**

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

*World Stage*

**Ballet Flamenco Sara Baras**

**Program:**

Spain's most famous flamenco company, the Ballet Flamenco Sara Baras, presents the Bay Area premiere of *Sueños (Dreams)*, a suite of dances based on *flamenco puro*, the most traditional and essential form of the art.

*Musical*

*Martinete*

*Soleá por Bulería*

*Jaleo*

*Farruca*

*Bulería*

*Seguiriya (Choreography: José Serrano)*

*Soleá*

*Fin de fiesta*

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