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RELEASE

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**OCTOBER 2004 WORLD STAGE EVENTS AT CAL PERFORMANCES**

**BRAZIL'S BALÉ FOLCLÓRICO DA BAHIA**  
**THURSDAY & FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7 & 8 AT 8:00 P.M. IN ZELLERBACH HALL**  
**SCHOOLTIME: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8 AT 11:00 A.M.**

**ISRAELI SONGSTRESS CHAVA ALBERSTEIN**  
**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16 AT 8:00 P.M. IN ZELLERBACH HALL**

**GODS, GODDESSES & ANCESTORS:**  
**MUSIC, DANCE AND RITUALS OF KERALA, INDIA**  
**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17 AT 7:00 P.M. IN ZELLERBACH HALL**  
**SCHOOLTIME: MONDAY, OCTOBER 18 AT 11:00 A.M.**

**BERKELEY, August 30, 2004** – A rich array of cultural tradition and expression graces Cal Performances' Zellerbach Hall stage come October. World Stage events for the month feature the return of the exuberant Afro-Brazilian dance company **Balé Folclórico da Bahia** for two nights on **Thursday & Friday, October 7 & 8 at 8:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall. The troupe performs *Brazilian Rhapsody*, a new program of repertoire representing authentic folkloric dances and music of Brazil. Next, **Chava Alberstein**, one of Israel's most gifted songwriters and vocalists, performs at Cal Performances for the first time **Saturday, October 16 at 8:00 p.m.** The following night presents a rare opportunity to witness music, dance and folklore unique to the southern state of Kerala, India. The ornately costumed performers of *Gods, Goddesses & Ancestors: Music, Dance and Rituals of Kerala, India* recreate the sacred drama of the *theyyam*, ancient ritual dances from the region **Sunday, October 17 at 7:00 p.m.**

Balé Folclórico da Bahia will give a *SchoolTime* performance for Bay Area students, **Friday, October 8 at 11:00 a.m.** in Zellerbach Hall. The dancers and musicians of *Gods, Goddesses & Ancestors: Music, Dance and Rituals of Kerala, India* give a *SchoolTime* performance on **Monday, October 18 at 11:00 a.m.** at Zellerbach Hall, also a part of *Cal Performances in the Classroom* curriculum programs.

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## BALÉ FOLCLÓRICO DA BAHIA

“In a spectacular display of color, movement, music and drama, **Balé Folclórico da Bahia** proved that the famous northeastern state of Brazil doesn’t just produce great singers,” wrote the *Chicago Sun-Times* in praise of the troupe’s *Carnaval 2000* tour. This season the 38 dancers and musicians of Brazil’s only professional folk dance company perform *Brazilian Rhapsody*, an evening that includes the spectacular Afro-Brazilian martial art of *capoeira*; *Samba de Roda*, the precursor of the samba which survives only in Bahia; *Macuelê*, a dramatic dance which originated in the sugar cane plantations of northeastern Brazil; and the rousing *Samba Reggae* that permits no one in the audience to finish the evening sitting down. Other highlights of the program include *Maracatu Rural*, a popular re-enactment of a courtly procession that pokes fun at European royalty; the imaginative *Boi-Bumbá*, a tale of fantastic animal creatures and their exploits in the jungle; and *Ginga*, a contemporary dance capturing multiple aspects of Bahian popular culture. The repertoire represents the three important cultural influences on Brazilian culture: African, introduced through 16<sup>th</sup>-century slavery; European, introduced through 16<sup>th</sup>-century Portuguese colonization; and the indigenous cultures of native Brazilians. (Thursday & Friday, October 7 & 8 at 8:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall; SchoolTime, Friday, October 8 at 11:00 a.m.)

In 1987, **Walson Botelho** (General Director) and **José Carlos Arandiba** (Artistic Director) founded Balé Folclórico da Bahia. Since its critically acclaimed performance at France’s Lyon Biennale de la Dance in 1994, the ensemble has garnered international fame and is considered one of the world’s premier multicultural performance companies. Since their United States debut in 1996, the group has visited more than 180 cities in North America, and last appeared at Cal Performances in December 2000.

## CHAVA ALBERSTEIN

Hailed the “First Lady of Israeli Song,” **Chava Alberstein** is one of the few contemporary singer-songwriters to compose in Yiddish, Hebrew and English. Inspired by the universally salient themes of peace, loss and hope, the acclaimed folk vocalist makes her first Cal Performances appearance Saturday, October 16 at 8:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall. Having

released nearly 50 recordings since the 1960s, Alberstein's development as an artist parallels Israel's development as a country—in fact, she was born the same year that Israel gained status as a nation. Her repertoire is vast, ranging from the tender love ode, to defiant protests, to simple prayers celebrating the beauty of the human body. Alberstein's latest recording, *The Well*, is a collection of Yiddish poems transformed into folk songs, in collaboration with renowned klezmer group The Klezmatics. “In Israel, Chava Alberstein is Joan Baez and Sarah McLachlan rolled into one: a thoughtful songwriter with folky roots, peaceable instincts, a voice filled with compassion and an earnest desire to improve things,” writes Jon Pareles of *The New York Times*. Alberstein (guitar and vocals) will be joined by guitarist **Oved Efrat** and percussionist **Avi Agababa** for the Zellerbach Hall performance.

***GODS, GODDESSES & ANCESTORS:***  
**MUSIC, DANCE AND RITUALS OF KERALA, INDIA**

One of India's most spectacular traditions comes to Cal Performances for one night only Sunday, October 17 at 7:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall (*SchoolTime*, Monday, October 18 at 11:00 a.m.). Isolated from the Deccan Plateau (the geographical heart of India) by mountains and a long coastline, the agrarian communities of the southern state of Kerala cultivated their own unique traditions. Ancient masked rituals called *theyyams* represent a particular style of worship: it is believed that through the *theyyam* deities are able, by manifesting themselves into bodies of male dancers, to not only appear before their human devotees as living beings, but also to interact with them. The men who perform the *theyyam* ritual, adorned in jeweled costumes, elaborate headdresses and heavy mask-like makeup and body paint, undergo extensive mental, physical and spiritual preparations in order to “become” the deities on stage representing both male and female gods. According to tradition, the rituals provide the audience with a reassuring bridge between the uncertainty of the earthly world and the certainties of the deity's universe.

Director **Ravi Gopalan Nair** has gathered 15 of the most skilled male performers from various villages in Kerala to perform in Berkeley, to live musical accompaniment on drums (*chenda*) and oboes (*kuzhal*). Highlights of the program are the *theyyam* of Muchilottu-Bhagavati, the venerated goddess who represents generosity and cures disease; and the *theyyam*

of the hero Kativannur-Viran, whose representation of the Tantric way of life is shown through a majestic and energetic dance.

### **TICKET INFORMATION**

Tickets for **Balé Folclórico da Bahia** on **Thursday & Friday, October 7 & 8** at **8:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$22.00, \$30.00** and **\$42.00**. Tickets for **Chava Alberstein** on **Saturday, October 16** at **8:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$22.00, \$28.00** and **\$38.00**. Tickets for **Gods, Goddesses & Ancestors: Music, Dance and Rituals of Kerala, India** on **Sunday, October 17** at **7:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$22.00, \$30.00** and **\$42.00**. Tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; online at [www.calperfs.berkeley.edu](http://www.calperfs.berkeley.edu); and at the door.

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The San Francisco Chronicle is a season sponsor of Cal Performances; San Francisco magazine and Classical 102.1 KDFC are season media sponsors of the 2004/05 performing arts season.

Cal Performances' programs are supported in part by the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, The Wallace Foundation, and the Zellerbach Family Foundation.

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**CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:**

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

**Thursday & Friday, October 7 & 8 at 8:00 p.m.**

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

*World Stage*

**Balé Folclórico da Bahia**

**Program:** Balé Folclórico da Bahia returns with *Brazilian Rhapsody*, a dynamic repertory of folkloric dances illustrating the African, European, and indigenous influences on the Bahia region.

**Tickets:** \$22.00, \$30.00 and \$42.00, 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.

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**Friday, October 8 at 11:00 a.m.**

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

**SCHOOLTIME PERFORMANCE**

**Balé Folclórico da Bahia**

**Program:** Balé Folclórico da Bahia perform selections from the evening program *Brazilian Rhapsody*, in a special one-hour program for Bay Area students.

**Tickets:** \$3.00 per student or adult chaperone, available in advance only through Cal Performances at (510) 642-1082. *SchoolTime* performances are open to students in grades 2 through 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](mailto:eduprograms@calperfs.berkeley.edu), or by phone at (510) 642-0212.

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**Saturday, October 16 at 8:00 p.m.**

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

*World Stage*

**Chava Alberstein**

**Program:** The acclaimed Israeli folk vocalist and guitarist performs songs in Yiddish, Hebrew and English for her Cal Performances debut.

**Tickets:** \$22.00, \$28.00 and \$38.00, 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.

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**Sunday, October 17 at 7:00 p.m.**

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

*World Stage*

***Gods, Goddesses & Ancestors:***

**Music, Dance and Rituals of Kerala, India**

**Program:** Ornately costumed dancers and musicians recreate the sacred drama of the *theyyam*—ancient ritual dances from the southern state of Kerala performed to the accompaniment of traditional instruments.

**Tickets:** at \$22.00, \$30.00 and \$42.00, 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.

# # #

**Monday, October 18 at 11:00 a.m.**

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

**SCHOOLTIME PERFORMANCE**

***Gods, Goddesses & Ancestors:***

**Music, Dance and Rituals of Kerala, India**

**Program:** The artists of *Gods, Goddesses & Ancestors: Music, Dance and Rituals of Kerala, India* recreate the sacred drama of the *theyyam* in a special one-hour program for Bay Area students.

**Tickets:** \$3.00 per student or adult chaperone, available in advance only through Cal Performances at (510) 642-1082. *SchoolTime* performances are open to students in grades 2 through 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](mailto:eduprograms@calperfs.berkeley.edu), or by phone at (510) 642-0212.

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