

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

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**BAYANIHAN PHILIPPINE NATIONAL DANCE COMPANY BRINGS THE COLOR,
SOUND AND EXCITEMENT OF FILIPINO CULTURE TO ZELLERBACH HALL ON
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23 AT 2:00 P.M. AND 8:00 P.M.**

BERKELEY, August 14, 2006 — The ancient Filipino concept of “Bayanihan” means working together for the common good. That tradition will be upheld and celebrated when the 45 dancers of the **Bayanihan Philippine National Dance Company** come to Cal Performances on **Saturday, September 23**, performing at **2:00 p.m.** and **8:00 p.m.** in **Zellerbach Hall**. The performance of the Philippines’ finest dance company to Berkeley coincides with nationwide events marking the centennial of Filipino migration to the United States. This 50 year old company was the first non-American dance company to perform at New York’s Lincoln Center. “There are ethnic dance companies, and there are ethnic dance companies. Bayanihan, the pride of the Philippines, is one of the best” (*Los Angeles Times*). The Bayanihan Philippine National Dance Company will present five dances on the Zellerbach Hall stage.

PROGRAM

Every performance by the Bayanihan Philippine National Dance Company is a rich, lively event that employs the full range of sights and sounds that the island nation can provide. Graceful, athletic dancers in colorful costumes swirl and play, accompanied by complex, syncopated rhythms presented on indigenous and introduced instruments. Some dances evoke the time before Spanish-European influence came to the island nation; “Earth Rhythms”, for example, tells of early man’s awareness of the colors, sounds, and rhythms of the dynamic earth and all the elements of nature. “Tribal Tapestry” weaves together the rhythms and colors of the various, diverse peoples of the Philippines, while representing the animals that share the land with humankind.

Other dances on the program reflect more recent history and evoke the Philippines of today. “Hispanic Past Remembered” presents several European dances redefined in graceful Filipino style; it also marks the Philippines’ natural and historic role as a center of international

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trade by recreating a bustling market with Chinese, Spanish, Indian, Mexican and Filipino merchants. The centerpiece of “Mindinao Splendor” – the Gold Temple Award winner at the 47th International Folklore Festival in Agrigento, Sicily in 2002 – is a royal tale of love lost and regained. And “People Under the Sun” presents the energy and excitement of a village *pista*, or fiesta, as it builds from pre-dawn dance of lights, through a sunny, friendly competition of skill dances, and climaxes in a rousing festival dance punctuated by joyous laughter.

BAYANIHAN PHILIPPINE NATIONAL DANCE COMPANY

Founded in 1957 by Dr. Helena Z. Benitez, the Bayanihan Philippine Dance Company began with four objectives: to research ethnic rites, tribal folklore and regional folkways; to collect indigenous music, dance, literature, arts and crafts; to distill and transform cultural traditions into theatrical presentations; and to promote international understanding through cultural exchange and performances abroad. Its performance at the 1958 Brussels World’s Fair, “Glimpses of Philippine Culture through Music and Dance,” was a sensation, and was beamed to a nationwide U.S. audience on the *Ed Sullivan Show*. Soon afterward, the impresario Sol Hurok booked Bayanihan for his annual International Dance Festival in New York City, and the troupe opened at the Winter Garden Theatre on October 13, 1959 to unanimous critical acclaim. “Bayanihan is one of the newest examples of an ethnic dance culture which has gone beyond simple preservation (important as that is), and into creative growth,” wrote Walter Terry of the *New York Herald Tribune* at the time.

Since 1958, the company has mounted 15 international tours and made over 100 appearances at international events and festivals in 55 countries on five continents. Besides being the first non-American dance company to perform at the Lincoln Center, they are also first Philippine cultural group to perform in Russia, the first Philippine group to perform in the People’s Republic of China, and the first to tour South America. It was one of just five performing arts groups (out of 70) selected to close the first *Conseil International des Organisations de Festivals de Folklore et d’Arts Traditionnels* (CIOFF) World Folkloriada, held in the Netherlands in 1996.

By an Act of the Philippine Congress in 2000, Bayanihan was officially designated the National Folk Dance Company of the Philippines. Its highly acclaimed coast-to-coast tour of the United States in 2001 and its many 2004 appearances in Europe demonstrate that the Bayanihan's commitment to bringing the arts and culture of the Philippines to the world is not diminished as it nears its 50th anniversary.

The year 2006 marks the centennial of Filipino migration to the United States. The Smithsonian Institution is noting the anniversary with public programs in Washington, DC and events in U.S. cities with large Filipino American populations. Locally, the Filipino Centennial Symposium will present the history of Filipinos in the United States and discuss contemporary issues facing the Filipino-American community in a lecture in San Francisco on October 6, 2006. More information is available online at <http://www.pacificrim.usfca.edu/events/centennial.html>. (The symposium is not associated with Cal Performances.)

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Bayanihan Philippine National Dance Company** on **Saturday, September 23** at **2:00 p.m.** and **8:00 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; at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu; and at the door. The 2:00 p.m. performance is a part of the Family Fare series, offering 15% off single ticket prices for adults and 50% off for children 16 and younger; additionally, the evening performance is 25% off for children 16 and under. Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC Berkeley students. UC faculty, 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 the Cal Performances Ticket Office at (510) 642-9988 or visit the Cal Performances web site at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu

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Cal Performances' 2006/07 Centennial Season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Saturday, September 23 at 2:00 p.m. [FF] & 8:00 p.m. Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

Dance

Bayanihan Philippine National Dance Company

Program:

“Earth Rhythms”

“Tribal Tapestry”

“Hispanic Past Remembered”

“Mindanao Splendor”

“People Under the Sun”

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