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**EVA YERBABUENA BALLET FLAMENCO TURNS UP THE HEAT  
IN ZELLERBACH HALL FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8 AND 9**

**BERKELEY, October 27, 2006** – Chilly December ushers in Spain’s hottest *bailaora*, **Eva Yerbabuena**, as she returns to Cal Performances for two fiery performances **Friday and Saturday, December 8 and 9 at 8:00 p.m.** in a program that promises passion, precision and pulse-pounding excitement. Eva Yerbabuena is acclaimed by many as the most influential flamenco artist working today and receives accolades for the purity of her work and the intensity of her spirit. “Even standing completely still, Eva Yerbabuena is a mesmerizing presence” (*Boston Globe*). “She is extraordinary, dancing with the intensity of a heroine from Greek tragedy, contracting her body and lowing herself down towards the stage, then drawing out her inner desolation with her hands in a gesture of solemn violence” (*Diario de Sevilla*). Performing with her company of six dancers and seven musicians, Yerbabuena strips flamenco to its bare essentials: dramatic footwork, dreamlike solos and the eloquent grace of a dancer at her peak.

**EVA YERBABUENA**

**Eva Yerbabuena** began studying traditional flamenco in Granada at age 12 with masters such as Angustillas del Sacramonte, La Mona, Mariquilla and Mario Maya. Her exceptional talent was quickly recognized and her training continued in Seville, the flamenco capitol of the world. Intensive studying in Cuba with Johanes Garcia followed. Over the years she has danced with Paco Moyano, Javier Latorre, Montealegre, Merche Esmeralda and Joaquín Cortés. Unlike many of her well-known contemporaries who borrow from hip-hop, tap and rock, Yerbabuena is a purist and feels such modernizations have traded flamenco’s intimacies for sensationalism. “The new flamenco does not exist,” she has said. “Everything has already been invented in flamenco; it encompasses all the human emotions. You make it modern by revealing yourself, not with embellishments. What’s difficult is revealing yourself.”

Although her passion is traditional flamenco, she has not isolated herself from other forms of dance. In her quest for longer narrative pieces for her company, she studied Pina Bausch’s work who, in turn, returned the compliment by inviting Yerbabuena to perform with

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Mikhail Baryshnikov, Caetano Veloso, Marie-Claude Pietragalla and Ana Laguna at Bausch's annual festival in Wuppertal, Germany. Yerbabuena excites audiences and fellow artists alike. Film director Mike Figgis (*Leaving Las Vegas*) featured Yerbabuena in his 1997 documentary, *Flamenco Women*. "Eva Yerbabuena is an extraordinary artist, she's unique...she will not disappoint you," says Figgis. He sent the documentary to William Forsythe, the great American choreographer, who was immensely impressed, observing that "[Yerbabuena] inspired me to use more heart and less intellect." In 2001, she appeared in *Hotel*, an experimental film by Figgis with John Malkovich, Burt Reynolds and Salma Hayek. Soon after, she appeared in *Pulse*, Stomp's award-winning IMAX film.

Since the company's founding in 1998, **Ballet Flamenco Eva Yerbabuena** has toured throughout Europe and has recently increased its performance schedule to reach an even wider global audience. Audiences are enthralled with Yerbabuena's explosive footwork and the graceful movements of her arms and hands. But above all, audiences respond to her *duende*, the soulfulness that is the trademark of flamenco. At the 11th Biennial in Seville in 2000, Eva Yerbabuena received the Best Performance and Best Ballerina honors for her work and in 2001, she was awarded Spain's most revered prize for dance, Premio Nacional de Danza. She has also won the *Flamenco Hoy* for Best Dancer for three consecutive years. In 2005, she was awarded two MAX awards for best dancer and best show and last year, she choreographed her most recent show *A Cuatro Voces*.

## FLAMENCO

The origins of flamenco are still not certain, as they have been obscured over the centuries in a tangle of influences and contributions from various civilizations. Likely born of the Gypsies' encounter with the inhabitants of southern Spain, the dance is a confluence of Arabic-Egyptian, Jewish and Indian influences (exemplified in the stylized movements of the body and the arms), and the popular songs and dances of Andalusia affected by seven centuries of Muslim occupation. Other influences are present in a country that has been dominated by many diverse cultures and civilizations throughout its past as well. All of these historical occurrences have, directly or indirectly, affected flamenco.

### TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Ballet Flamenco Eva Yerbabuena** performing **Friday** and **Saturday, December 8** and **9** at **8:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$24.00, \$36.00** 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.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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### CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

#### CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

**Friday and Saturday, December 8 and 9 at 8:00 p.m.**      **Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus**  
Bancroft Way at Telegraph, Berkeley

*World Stage*

**Ballet Flamenco Eva Yerbabuena**

**Program:** Spanish phenomenon Eva Yerbabuena is already considered one of the most extraordinary dancers of traditional flamenco. She brings her company of six dancers and seven musicians to the Zellerbach Hall stage.

**Tickets: \$24.00, \$36.00** and **\$48.00**, 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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