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**BALLET FLAMENCO JOSÉ PORCEL BRINGS ITS QUICKSILVER
DANCING TO ZELLERBACH HALL FRIDAY & SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 5 & 6 AT 8:00 P.M.**

**The Latin Music Series Includes a Talk Given by Jesse “Chuy” Varela Friday,
December 5 at 5:00 p.m. at Zellerbach Hall**

BERKELEY, October 28, 2008—With a program that infuses contemporary music and dance steps with the purity of traditional flamenco dance, **Ballet Flamenco José Porcel** makes its Cal Performances debut **Friday & Saturday, December 5 & 6 at 8:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall. Hailed as “flamenco, 19th, 20th and 21st-century style” by the Las Vegas *Review-Journal*, the company performs a program titled *Alma Flamenco* (Soul of Flamenco), a mix of passionate songs and fiery dances showcasing the ensemble’s bravura. With a variety of solos, duos and group dances, the performance will include pieces such as *seguirilla* (demonstrating the dark and serious aspect of flamenco), *tangillo* (a song and dance derived from the tango), *farruca* (a modern version of male flamenco dance) and *alegrías* (a joyful dance). For two evenings, Porcel and his company of seven dancers—**Tamara Calatayud, Leticia Calatayud, María Jurado, Patricia Goró, Adrián Santana, Ricardo Sánchez** and **Antonia Ramírez**—and six musicians—**Rubén Campos** and **Javier Fernández** (guitar); **Caridad Vega** and **Manuel Soto** (vocals); **Miguel Ortiz “El nene”** (percussion); and **Fernando Bravo** (sax and flute)—will clap, shout and stomp their way across the stage.

Cal Performances’ Latin Music Series includes a talk by jazz radio host and Latin music specialist Jesse “Chuy” Varela on Friday, December 5 at 5:00 p.m. in the lobby mezzanine at Zellerbach Hall. This is the first of four such lectures to be given by Varela that will include background information, guest interviews and musical illustration to complement performances by the Jose Porcell company; Noche Flamenca (1/23); Afro-Cuban All Stars (2/25); and Chick

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Corea and John McLaughlin – Five Peace Band (3/21). These events are free and open to the public but tickets must be purchased to attend the concerts.

JOSÉ PORCEL

José Porcel was born in Sevilla, Spain. He began dancing flamenco and Andalusian folkloric dances in the cultural centers of Valencia by the age of thirteen. When Porcel was 16, he began his dance studies with Martín Vargas. He later moved to Madrid, continuing his studies with Paco Romero, Isabel Quintero, Cristóbal Reyes, Pegro Azorín and José Granero.

In 1989, Porcel made his professional debut with the Ballet de Valencia, directed by Vargas, and was promoted to the company's soloist in the following year. In 1993, Porcel took part in a tour of America with Clara Romana's company in *Carmina Burana*. The following year he was invited to join the Ballet Nacional de España, where he performed works including *Media*, *Ritmos*, *Bolero de Ravel*, *Poeta* and many flamenco ballets.

As a soloist with the Ballet Nacional de España, Porcel danced in *Los Tarantos* as Picaos, *Medea* as the man of Medea and *Grito* as Soleá. In December 1999, he danced with the company of Rafael Aguilar as Torero in *Carmen* during a major tour of Germany and Switzerland.

In 2000, Porcel danced as soloist with the Los Angeles Philharmonic at the Hollywood Bowl, under the direction of maestro Héctor Zaraspe. In the same year, he was contracted to be the first dancer in the Compañía Española de Antonio Márquez, performing on tour around the world and at the Ópera de París for over 20 sold-out performances, followed by a critically acclaimed tour of the United States during the 2001-2002 season.

FLAMENCO

Described as an explosion of rhythms, colors and emotions that contains the vitality and passion of the Spanish people, flamenco is a folkloric celebration with uncertain origins. Caught in a web of influences and contributions from various civilizations throughout the centuries, flamenco is thought to have originated in Andalusia near the fifteenth century during the Gypsies' encounter with the inhabitants of southern Spain.

The oldest form of flamenco is *cante jondo*, an intimate and deep-felt song that recounts the sorrows and hopes of the Gypsy people. Flamenco dancing originated as a rhythmic form of accentuation for singing. Over time it became enriched with increasingly expressive possibilities. With the indispensable accompaniment of guitars, it became the source of a vast repertoire of *cuadros*, where the intense and passionate nature of Mediterranean people take center stage.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Ballet Flamenco José Porcel Friday & Saturday, December 5 & 6 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.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.

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 2008/09 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

Classical 102.1 KDFC is our 2008/09 season media sponsors.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Friday, December 5 from 5:00 p.m.–6:30 p.m.

LATIN MUSIC SERIES

Zellerbach Hall Lobby Mezzanine

Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

A talk about the art of flamenco music and dance, including its resurgence in the Bay Area with Jazz radio host and Latin music specialist **Jesse “Chuy” Varela**.

This talk is the first in a series that includes background information, guest interviews and musical illustrations to complement performances by Ballet Flamenco José Porcel (12/5), Noche Flamenca (1/23); Afro-Cuban All Stars (2/25); and Chick Corea and John McLaughlin – Five Peace Band (3/21). While the talks are free and open to the public, tickets must be purchased for entrance to the associated concerts.

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Friday & Saturday, December 5 & 6 at 8:00 p.m.

World Stage

Ballet Flamenco José Porcel

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus

Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

Program: Dancing traditional and contemporary flamenco, choreographer José Porcel brings his troupe of 13 dancers and musicians to Berkeley.

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.calperformances.org; and at the door.
