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CONTACT:
Louisa Spier 510.643.6714
lspier@calperformances.org

[Press Room](#)

**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS
THE CHITRESH DAS DANCE COMPANY IN *SHIVA*,
PANDIT CHITRESH DAS'S FINAL WORK,
FEBRUARY 27 & 28 IN ZELLERBACH HALL**

Residency activities planned on the UC Berkeley campus and in the community, in celebration of the life and work of the company's founder

BERKELEY, January 27, 2016 [updated February 5, 2016]—Rescheduled from March 2015 in wake of the unexpected passing of world-renowned *kathak* practitioner **Pandit Chitresh Das**, Cal Performances presents the [Chitresh Das Dance Company](#) in *Shiva*, the final full-length work of its visionary founder on Saturday, February 27 at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday, February 28 at 3:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall. Anchored by a memorial video, a special pre-performance chant of a poetic verse by hundreds of Das's students from his Chhandam School, and an opening piece performed by the Chhandam Youth Dance Company, *Shiva* is a hypnotic and powerful paean to the Hindu deity of destruction and rebirth. The work was mostly complete prior to Das's passing, and the remaining choreography was completed by one of Das's senior disciples and co-Artistic Director, **Charlotte Moraga** using the outlines that Das had created. Praised by the *San Francisco Chronicle* in its 2013 work-in-progress premiere at Z Space as “a remarkable vehicle for powerful women” for the company's dancers, *Shiva* explores the balance between destruction and creation in Das's signature style, which combines traditional *kathak* choreography—virtuosic percussive footwork, expressive facial expressions and hand gestures—with a modern dramatic sensibility. Das's final full-length work has been specifically reimaged for Zellerbach Hall in these performances, and features an all-women cast of dancers and live musical accompaniment composed by Pandit Chitresh Das and directed **Jayanta Banerjee**.

Residency activities celebrating the artistry and influence of Pandit Chitresh Das are planned on the UC Berkeley campus and in the community, including a K-12 Teacher Workshop focusing on the themes from *Shiva* on Saturday, January 30, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Longfellow Middle School, and a SchoolTime performance by the company for K-12 schoolchildren, on Friday, February 26 at 11:00 am in Zellerbach Hall. A screening of Hoku

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Uchiyama's 2013 film, *Upaj: Improvise*, a behind-the-scenes look at *India Jazz Suites*, a dance collaboration featuring Pandit Chitresh Das and tap star Jason Samuels Smith, will be held on Friday, February 19 at 7:00 p.m. in Wheeler Hall, followed by a talk with the Uchiyama, Smith, Celine Schein Das (producer of *India Jazz Suites* and Executive Director of Chitresh Das Dance Company) and Antara Bhardwaj (producer of *Upaj: Improvise*). This event is free and open to the public. Members of the company will also participate in a Community Dance Class, on Saturday, February 20, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Bancroft Studio, including technique and choreographic phrases from *Shiva*. The class is for all ages and abilities; pre-registration is required.

The [Chitresh Das Dance Company & Chhandam School of Kathak](#) is an internationally renowned nonprofit arts organization that is dedicated to the education, promotion, and preservation of *kathak* dance and classical Indian art and culture. The award-winning company is a leader in Indian classical dance, featuring some of the most powerful women to emerge from today's generation of *kathak* artists. Company members exemplify Pandit Chitresh Das's emphasis on the technical, graceful, and dramatic aspects of *kathak* dance, each an established soloist in her own right. The company produces traditional, innovative, and relevant work that is evocative and commanding, combining the richness of ancient India with a fiery, contemporary sensibility. The school is a world-class academy dedicated to deep cultural education through the *kathak* tradition. Founded in Northern California in 1980, it is the largest classical Indian dance institution in North America. In addition, it has major affiliate centers run by Pandit Das's disciples in India, Boston, Los Angeles and Toronto.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for *Chitresh Das Dance Company* on Saturday, February 27 at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday, February 28 at 3:00 p.m. in Zellerbach Hall range from \$25.00 to \$58.00 and are subject to change. Half-price tickets are available for UC Berkeley students. Tickets are available through the Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall, at (510) 642-9988, at www.calperformances.org, and at the door. For more information about discounts, visit <http://calperformances.org/buy/discounts.php>.

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Cal Performances' 2015–2016 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Teacher Workshop

Saturday, January 30, 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

New Language, Ancient Myth

Longfellow Middle School

1500 Derby Street, Berkeley

Program: Cal Performances offers a workshop for teachers of grades K-12, focusing on the themes of Chitresh Dance Company's performance, *Shiva*. The workshop is part of a continuing partnership with the Berkeley Unified School District 6th Grade Classrooms. Visit calperformances.org for information and to register.

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Film Screening

Upaj: Improvise

Friday, February 19 at 7:00 p.m.

Wheeler Auditorium, UC Berkeley Campus

Program: The film *Upaj: Improvise* goes behind the scenes of *India Jazz Suites*, an East-meets-West collaboration featuring Indian *kathak* master, Pandit Chitresh Das, and tap star Jason Samuels Smith. The screening is followed by a talk with director Hoku Uchiyama, Jason Samuels Smith, Film Producer Antara Bhardwaj and Chitresh Das Dance Company Executive Director Celine Schein.

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Community Dance Class

Saturday, February 20, 11:00 a.m.

Bancroft Studio, UC Berkeley Campus

Bancroft Way at Dana Street, Berkeley

Program: A member of Chitresh Das Dance Company leads a community dance class, including technique and choreographic phrases from the current work. For all ages and abilities, pre-registration is required at calperformances.org.

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SchoolTime Performance

Friday, February 26 at 11:00 a.m.

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at Dana Street, Berkeley

Program: The Chitresh Das Dance Company presents a matinee performance for grades K-12. Pre-registration is required at calperformances.org.

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Saturday, February 27 at 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, February 28, at 3:00 p.m.

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at Dana Street, Berkeley

World Stage

Chitresh Das Dance Company

Shiva

Program: In remembrance of the recently passed *kathak* master Pandit Chitresh Das, his eponymously named dance company performs his final work, *Shiva* (2013), which examines the balance between destruction and creation.

Tickets: Prices range from \$25.00 to \$58.00 and are subject to change. They are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall, at (510) 642-9988, at calperformances.org, and at the door.

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