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**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS
BALLET FLAMENCO EVA YERBABUENA,
RECIPIENT OF SPAIN'S PREMIO NACIONAL DE DANZA 2001**

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28 AT 8:00 P.M. AND SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 29 AT 7:00 P.M.
IN ZELLERBACH HALL**

BERKELEY, January 28, 2004 – Spain's most exciting young *bailaora*, **Eva Yerbabuena**, comes to Zellerbach Hall **Saturday, February 28 at 8:00 p.m.** and **Sunday, February 29 at 7:00 p.m.** in an evening that promises passion, precision and pulse-pounding excitement. Eva Yerbabuena is acclaimed by many as the most important flamenco artist working today, receiving accolades for the purity of her work and the intensity of her spirit. "Even standing completely still, Eva Yerbabuena is a mesmerizing presence," hails the *Boston Globe*. "The flamenco dancer is so tightly coiled, so poised to explode in a rush of white heat, you dare not look away less you miss the riveting turn of the head or curl of the fingers...that summons the soul of the dance." Performing with her company of five 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 Sacramento, "La Mona," Mariquilla and Mario Maya. Her extraordinary 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, Montele, 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

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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 when she invited Yerbabuena to perform with 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. Sending the documentary to William Forsythe, the great American choreographer was immensely impressed, observing that “[Yerbabuena] inspired me to use more heart and less intellect.”

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. In 2001, Yerbabuena 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, and at the 11th Biennial in Seville in 2000, Eva Yerbabuena received the Best Performance and Best Ballerina honors for her work.

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 the 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 in a country that has been dominated by many diverse cultures and civilizations throughout its past are present, as well. All of these historical occurrences, directly or indirectly, have affected flamenco.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Ballet Flamenco Eva Yerbabuena** performing **Saturday, February 28** at **8:00 p.m.** and **Sunday, February 29** at **7:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$26.00**, **\$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; 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. For more information, call Cal Performances at (510) 642-9988 or visit the Cal Performances web site at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Saturday, February 28 at 8:00 p.m.
Campus
Sunday, February 29 at 7:00 p.m.

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley

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 five dancers and seven musicians to the Zellerbach Hall stage for the first time.

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