

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

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**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS MADRID'S ACCLAIMED NOCHE FLAMENCA
FEBRUARY 18 & 19, AT ZELLERBACH HALL**

WINNER OF THE 2004 LUCILLE LORTEL AWARD FOR UNIQUE THEATRICAL EXPERIENCE

BERKELEY, January 23, 2006 – One of the world's foremost flamenco companies and a sensation in its 2000 Bay Area debut and its return engagement in 2003, **Noche Flamenca** takes the stage at Cal Performances' **Zellerbach Hall** on **Saturday, February 18 at 8:00 p.m.** & **Sunday, February 19 at 7:00 p.m.** **Noche Flamenca's** appearance is part of **Celebración de las Culturas de Iberoamérica**, Cal Performances' programming initiative to bring the performing arts of Latin America, Spain and the Caribbean to Bay Area audiences. Hailed by *The New York Times* as "a soul-stirring tour-de-force of theater," **Noche Flamenca** captures the essence, purity of form and emotional fire that has made the company one of Spain's most successful ensembles. Founded in 1993 by Artistic Director **Martin Santangelo** and leading dancer and Bessie Award-winner **Soledad Barrio**, the Madrid-based ensemble has quickly become one of the most sought after dance companies in the world, and one that delivers the "fully felt emotional expression of the soul that pure flamenco demands" (*The Washington Post*). In addition to Barrio, the company features dancers **Isabel Bayon**, **Antonio Rodriguez Jimenez** "El Chupete" and **Juan Ogalla**; guitarists **Jesus Torres** and **Eugenio Iglesias**; and singers **Manuel Gago** and **Antonio Campos**. In keeping with the company's matchless quality, **Noche Flamenca** won the 2004 Lucille Lortel award for Unique Theatrical Experience.

NOCHE FLAMENCA

The uniqueness of **Noche Flamenca** emanates from the combination of extraordinary guitarists, singers and dancers who perform together with a communal spirit and a deep understanding of flamenco. Their talents are interwoven and given equal weight, in an artistic vision developed by Santangelo and Barrio. The performers offer dance works of rich dramatic substance and top-rank virtuosity that reveal the true heart and soul of flamenco. In its

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international touring, the ensemble has won accolades around the world, with standing ovations in Egypt, the United States, Canada, Portugal and Spain. Some of Spain's most renowned artists such as Belen Maya, Alejandro Granados, Antonio Vizarraga, Rafael "Falo" Jimenez, and David Serva have worked, and continue to work, with the company. Noche Flamenca is "a miracle, the answer to the question of where the excitement, the grit, the lacerating intimacy and the professionalism went in Spanish dance," commented the *San Francisco Examiner*.

THE ARTISTS

Martin Santangelo, co-founder of Noche Flamenca, is a resident of Madrid. A student of Ciro, Paco Romero, el Guito, Manolete and Alejandro Granados, he has performed throughout Spain and the United States with Maria Benitez's Teatro Flamenco, at the Lincoln Center Festival of the Arts and with Paco Romero's Ballet Español. He also appeared in and choreographed a solo for Julie Taymor's *Juan Darien* at Lincoln Center. Santangelo choreographed *Romeo and Juliette* at the Denver Theater Center and co-directed and choreographed *Bodas de Sangre* with Larry Kornfield at SUNY Purchase. Santangelo, who was born and raised in New York's Greenwich Village, was exposed to dance by his Argentine mother, a dancer with Alwin Nikolais. As a young man, he studied acting at New York University, then moved to San Francisco, joining El Teatro Campesino. While with the theater company he happened to fill in for an actor in a flamenco performance and became captivated by the dance. He soon left the United States for Madrid, to pursue flamenco studies there.

The co-founder of Noche Flamenco, **Soledad Barrio**, has been described by George C. Wolfe, former Artistic Director of New York's Joseph Papp Public Theater, as "a once-in-a-lifetime performer who combines overwhelming physicality and spirituality." She was born in Madrid and trained in flamenco and Clasico Español. Barrio has appeared as soloist with the Ballet Español of Paco Romero, Manuela Vargas, Blanca del Rey, Luisillo, El Guito, Manolete, Cristobal Reyes, and Toleo. In 2001, Barrio was named the winner of a New York Dance & Performance Award (a.k.a. the "Bessie") for Outstanding Creative Achievement. She is married to Artistic Director Martin Santangelo, with two daughters, Gabriela and Stella. Of the fiery intensity of Barrio, Jennifer Dunning of *The New York Times* stated, "[She] seemed possessed by

smoldering, do-or-die flamenco passion...An entire evening of her dancing would probably fill the city's coronary wards."

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Noche Flamenca** on **Saturday, February 18 at 8:00 p.m.** & **Sunday, February 19 at 7:00 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; 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. The Ticket Office will be closed weekends beginning June through August 2003. 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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Cal Performances' 2005/06 Centennial Season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Saturday, February 18 at 8:00 p.m.
Sunday, February 19 at 7:00 p.m.

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

Dance

Noche Flamenca

Martin Santangelo, artistic director

Soledad Barrio, co-founder and lead dancer

Program: Featuring the fiery artistry of Soledad Barrio, the company of singers, dancers and guitarists present breathtaking performances and top-rank virtuosity which reveal the passionate soul of flamenco.

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; and at the door.