



For Immediate Release:

March 31, 2014

Contact: Edris Cooper-Anifowoshe, BRAVA Marketing Associate

Phone: (415) 641-7657 x8

Fax: (866) 641-7684

Email: edris@brava.org

Brava! For Women in the Arts & Epiphany Productions present

the Second Annual

Baile en la Calle: The Mural Dances

'Down Historic Balmy Alley'

WHO: Brava! For Women in the Arts, Cuicacalli Escuela De Danza, Los Chiles Verdes, Cuicacalli Dance Company, Precita Eyes Mural Arts Center, Epiphany Productions, Diana Gameros, and Loco Bloco

WHAT: Baile en la Calle: The Mural Dances

WHERE: Precita Eyes Mural Arts Center 2981-24th Street and Balmy Alley

WHEN: Sunday May 4, 2014 - tours begin from Precita Eyes Mural Arts Center at 11am, 12pm, 1pm and 2pm

FREE TO THE PUBLIC

Baile en la Calle: The Mural Dances takes over **Balmy Alley** as the event rolls into its second year and calls attention to the vibrant and visual culture of the Mission District.. Last year's *Baile en la Calle: The Mural Dances* - featuring 5 performances at 5 mural sites on the lower 24th Corridor - was attended by over 600 people. This year **Epiphany Productions, Cuicacalli Dance Company, Cuicacalli Escuela de Danza** and **Loco Bloco** offer dance interpretations of the murals along the Mission's historic Balmy Alley, home to the most concentrated collections of murals in the city of San Francisco. The alley's murals feature the common themes of protest of US intervention in Central America and celebration of indigenous cultures of Central America and have inspired similar projects across the country. This year, dancers are joined by live musician who will offer musical interpretations of the murals' themes of borders, resistance and change. Accompanying Epiphany Productions will be local favorite, singer-songwriter **Diana Gameros** and joining Cuicacalli will be Brava resident youth artists, the renowned **Los Chiles Verdes Salsa Band** Workshop.

Featuring Performances by:

- Cuicacalli Escuela de Danza with Los Chiles Verdes Salsa Band Workshop
- Cuicacalli Dance Company – adult modern/folkloric
- Epiphany Productions – adult modern with singer/songwriter, Diana Gameros
- Loco Bloco – comparsa / stilts and dancers
- Culminating in Latin dance performance at Galeria de la Raza
- With mural tours guides provided by Precita Eyes



Brava! For Women in the Arts

Brava! For Women in the Arts celebrates its 26th year as a professional arts organization dedicated to cultivating the artistic expression of women, youth, LGBT, people of color and other unheard voices through the ownership and operation of Brava Theater Center. BRAVA producing history includes award-winning premieres by Diana Son, Eve Ensler, Debbie Swisher, Reno, Cherylene Lee, Suzan-Lori Parks, Culture Clash, Joan Holden, Anne Galjour, Elizabeth Summers, Kate Rigg, Dan Guerrero, and Mabou Mines, as well as works by internationally known playwrights like Jesusa Rodriguez and Liliana Felipe of Mexico, Jorge Drexler of Uruguay, and Ojos de Brujo and Ismael Serrano of Spain. BRAVA's current artistic programming includes traditional and contemporary music festivals, a variety of film festivals, contemporary and experimental theatrical productions, international comedy shows, lectures and professional dance productions - making BRAVA one of the most eclectic and multi-faceted arts venues in the Bay Area. BRAVA's resident youth programs include the long standing SF Running crew which pairs youth with professional mentors and hands on opportunities for technical theatre training; Cuicacalli Escuela de Danza, traditional and contemporary dance training for youth, Famooly Productions Salsa Band workshops and Loco Bloco dance and drum ensemble. Brava is committed to providing affordable space for artistic development and presentation and quality professional arts training for underserved youth in the San Francisco community.

Epiphany Productions

Artistic Director Kim Epifano founded Epiphany Productions in 1997 to aid her work in sonic dance theater, a genre-bending blend of dance, theater, and vocalization in which dancers, musicians, aerialists, and actors work together to weave a story on stage. Epiphany Production's programs include an annual Home Season; San Francisco Trolley Dances (SFTD), a free annual festival presented since 2004 along the City's trolley lines, which features new site-specific works by Bay Area choreographers; and educational outreach activities in the Bay Area and around the world. The company's artistic focus is on large-scale multi-disciplinary collaborations, and since its inception, Epiphany Productions has produced 20 major large-scale works of this nature. The company's work has been seen all over the world, including a recent U.S. State Department-supported tour to Tunisia, North Africa in March 2010 to be the featured performers at an international dance festival hosted by Mad' Art Carthage. Epiphany Production's work has been recognized by several Isadora Duncan Dance Awards (IZZIES) and nominations, received the SF Weekly's Black Box Award for Best Dance Ensemble, and placed first in Mexico's Bi-National Competition. Epiphany Productions has received support from the National Endowment for the Arts, William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, San Francisco Hotel Tax Fund, Walter and Elise Haas Fund, San Francisco Arts Commission, Phyllis C. Wattis Foundation, California Arts Council, and others.

Cuicacalli Escuela de Danza

Cuicacalli Escuela de Danza is a year-round youth training program in residence at Brava Theater Center. Founded in 2008 by renowned international performer Jesus “Jacoh” Cortes, Cuicacalli is an international, cross-cultural, dance-arts educational institution. Cuicacalli carries strongly its mission: to serve the diverse community of San Francisco with dedication towards excellent instruction, performances and community programs, for intergenerational students, artists and audiences of all backgrounds. Cuicacalli builds communities through dance - expanding, exploring and celebrating the cultural traditions of the Americas.

Loco Bloco Dance & Drum Ensemble

Loco Bloco was founded in 1994 by community artists and activists of color to provide low-income, minority and immigrant families’ access to professional level arts education at no cost. Since Loco Bloco's inception more than 6,000 youth and their families have benefited from training and performance in high-quality percussion, dance, visual arts, theater arts, stilt walking, civic engagement, youth leadership training and physical and mental health education. Each year, approximately 600 young people between 4 and 18 years of age directly participate in Loco Bloco's afterschool programs at San Francisco schools and community centers.

Through special events, more audiences and communities are exposed to Loco Bloco's philosophy of youth empowerment through the arts. Loco Bloco's major events include: all New Works Concert presented in early December; International Women's Celebration Event presented throughout March; Carnival season, which includes our Youth Carnival Jam, SF Carnival Parade and SF Pride Parade, during May and July; and Loco Bloco's summer Cultural Youth X Change.

Precita Eyes Muralists Association

Precita Eyes Muralists Association and Center, established in 1977, founded by Susan and Luis Cervantes and other artists in San Francisco’s Mission District, is a multipurpose community based arts organization that has played an integral role in the city's cultural heritage and arts education. One of only three community mural centers in the United States, the organization sponsors and implements ongoing mural projects throughout the Bay Area and internationally. In addition, it has a direct impact on arts education in the San Francisco Mission District by offering four weekly art classes for children and youth (18 months through 19 years) and other classes for adults. These classes and community mural projects enable children and youth to develop their individuality and confidence through creative activities and to experience unifying, positive social interaction through collaboration.

Los Chiles Verdes Salsa Band Workshop

Los Chiles Verdes (The Green Chiles) is a band formed by Jose Leon and Tony Price. Comprised of 16 young musicians that range in age from 8 to 14, Los Chiles Verdes has been playing since 2009. They have been a resident program of the Mission Performing Arts Program (MAPA @ BRAVA) at Brava Theater Center and continue to train young musicians and offer opportunities to learn and perform.

Diana Gamos

Diana Gamos is a Latin singer/songwriter who performs songs of love, longing, and hope. Originally from Ciudad Juarez, Mexico and now living in San Francisco, Gamos creates authentic, inspiring music that reflects the 21st century experiences of a young indie artist at the borderlands between cultures, languages, and genres. Born to a musical family where she was surrounded by traditional Mexican songs of love and revolution, Gamos was the first of her family to receive formal music lesson. She left Mexico as a teenager to study piano and recording technology in Michigan. During those formative years, she soaked up the sounds of classical music, underground rock, the avant-garde, world music, and jazz, forever influencing her own deeply diverse style. After just a few years in San Francisco, Gamos' talent and versatility as a performer has brought her a steady stream of high profile gigs at such notable venues as Herbst Theater, Brava Theater, Yoshi's Lounge, The Independent, The Red Poppy Art House, The New Parish, Fox Theater, and dozens of other venues small and large. She has opened concerts for Cecilia Bastida, LoCura, Latin Grammy-nominee Ximena Sariñana, Torreblanca, and Bebel Gilberto.