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**Theatre Flamenco of San Francisco Presents**  
*Transitar por un Mundo sin Tiempo*  
(*Passage through a Timeless World*)

**Saturday, May 13, 2023 at 8pm**

**Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness Ave. San Francisco, CA 94102**

Tickets (\$25-55): [CityBoxOffice.com/TheatreFlamenco](https://CityBoxOffice.com/TheatreFlamenco)

San Francisco, CA... **Theatre Flamenco of San Francisco**, the Bay Area's oldest flamenco dance company (having been founded in 1966), brings audiences an explosive music and dance experience in its 57th home season production, *Transitar por un Mundo sin Tiempo* (*Passage through a Timeless World*).

In the company's joyous return after three years of the pandemic, Artistic Director, **Carola Zertuche**, fuses flamenco with live electronic music, violin, and electric guitar. World-renowned Spanish guitarist, **Juani De La Isla**, will lead the musical journey. De La Isla is a highly respected flamenco guitarist from the island of San Fernando near the port city of Cádiz, in Andalusia in southwestern Spain. Renowned Spanish musician **Diego Amador, Hijo** will be bringing his vocal and piano stylings to the ensemble. Amador hails from a long line of Gypsy flamenco artists who have expanded their reach into rock, jazz, and other forms of world music, launching the world-famous flamenco band Pata Negra. **Adrian Santana**, a flamenco dancer from Malaga, will join Zertuche on stage. This will be Santana's debut with the company and his first time performing in San Francisco. Santana comes from a family of flamenco artists, including his uncle, Pepito Vargas, a well-known dancer who passed down his knowledge to his nephew. Making his debut with the company is California-based electronic musician, **Pascual Martinez**. Come travel the world through *Transitar por un Mundo sin Tiempo*!

This show is inspired by a trip Zertuche took to Jordan in 2021, during a time of many Covid restrictions. She says "visiting the Wadi Rum Desert, especially, was one of the most incredible experiences of my life: peaceful energy surrounded me like an inexplicable force. I felt the sensation —with the light, the endless red sand, the stars clear in the night sky — that time had ceased to exist, that everything was perfect, that anything could happen. Flamenco, to me, also has that inexplicable energy, and I'd like the audience to feel those same emotions, even if just for the hour and 15 minutes of the show."

**ABOUT THEATRE FLAMENCO OF SAN FRANCISCO:**

Theatre Flamenco of San Francisco presents an innovative approach to flamenco to enrich and inspire the art community and general public of our city and region. The troupe produces richly imaginative thematic shows with local and international artists, teaches and mentors a new generation of talent, and maintains strong ties to the traditional flamenco communities of Spain.

Founded in 1966, Theatre Flamenco is the oldest flamenco dance company in the Bay Area and San Francisco's second oldest dance company (after the San Francisco Ballet). The company began in an era when Latinos were moving into and making their cultural mark on San Francisco, and for decades Artistic Director, Miguel Santos, led the organization with the goal of promoting the artistic heritage of the Latino arts. The company has produced an original home season production in San Francisco annually since its inception 57 years ago.

In 2008, Santos appointed Carola Zertuche as his successor to push the community dance troupe to new artistic heights. Zertuche's focus was expanding the company's visibility and programming beyond its annual home season, including touring, student training and performances, and community outreach.

During Zertuche's first year of leadership, critic Renee Renouf of the UK's Ballet.co observed that "since Carola Zertuche assumed artistic direction, the ensemble has shifted from essentially a community-oriented emphasis to one leaning heavily on professional aspirations.... If the changes progress in this spirit, the Bay Area might add a highly-polished flamenco ensemble to its roster of dance jewels."

In the decade since, Zertuche's Theatre Flamenco has delivered on that promise, alternating traditional shows with genre-fusing works in its annual home seasons and performances throughout the year. Melding flamenco with artistic elements like modern dance, electronic music, or light installments, the company has built a reputation of providing a uniquely West Coast lens on the Spanish art form.

### **ARTISTS' BIOS:**

**CAROLA ZERTUCHE** (Artistic Director, Choreographer, Dancer), born in Torreon, Mexico, has collaborated with international and local artists in productions paying homage to traditional styles of flamenco since assuming the artistic directorship of the company in 2008. She has toured Mexico, USA, South America, Canada, and the Middle East, dancing with various flamenco companies, and performed at New York's Joyce Theater and Jacob's Pillow in Massachusetts. Zertuche has collaborated on projects with flamenco dancers such as Andres Marin, Carmen Ledesma, Pastora Galvan, Adela Campallo, Jesus Carmona, Nino de los Reyes among others. In 2017, she made her San Francisco Opera debut as the choreographer for La Traviata. Her later production Soul y Alma, a sold out Performance at the Herbst Theatre, was named "one of the best performances of 2020" by Bay Area dance critic, Rita Felciano.

**JUANI DE LA ISLA** (Musical Director, Composer, Guitarist) aka Juan Francisco Gonzalez Caballero is a highly respected and world-renowned flamenco guitarist from the island of San Fernando near the port city of Cádiz in southern Spain. He began his musical

education studying with the great flamenco singer Rafael Romero and has been a student of the celebrated flamenco guitarist Manolo Sanlúcar. Juani de la Isla has also been trained in the gypsy flamenco style of *Morón* – a small pueblo in the heart of Andalucía's flamenco country. Throughout his illustrious career, he has accompanied some of the finest flamenco artists of this century: singers Jose Mercé, Chato de la Isla, Juan Villar, Rancapino, Pansequito and Aguilar de Vejer; and dancers Javier Barón, Sara Baras, and Manuela Carrasco. He has composed music for the flamenco dance company of Cristina Hoyos and for over a decade has been the Musical Director for the popular flamenco singer *El Barrio*. Juani de la Isla's recording career includes participation on more than 100 albums with some of Spain's finest flamenco artists including Jose Mercé, Joaquin Sabána, Paco Ortega, El Barrio, and David de María. In 2015, he released his first solo CD *Libertad en Mis Manos*.

**DIEGO AMADOR, HIJO** (Flamenco Singer, Guitarist) was born in Seville into a family considered *Flamenco royalty*. His father is the celebrated Flamenco pianist Diego Amador and his uncles, Rafael and Raimundo Amador, were the founders of the popular Flamenco band *Pata Negra*. From a very young age, he began performing and touring with some of Spain's top Flamenco artists, including Remedios Amaya, La Susi, Lole Montoya, Farruquito, and Joaquin Cortes. He is also an accomplished Flamenco percussionist and released his first album *Presente en el Tiempo*, in 2021.

**ADRIAN SANTANA** (Guest Artist; Flamenco Dancer from Malaga, Spain) began his training at the age of 9 with his uncle, Pepito Vargas, the great dancer from Malaga and continued his studies at the Professional Dance Conservatory in Malaga. Santana has formed part of dance companies such as Manuel Liñán, Carlos Saura, Aida Gómez, and Rocío Molina and has shared the stage with artists such as Pastora Galván, Nani Paños, Rafael Estévez, Javier Latorre, and Lola Greco among others.

In 2010 Santana received the second prize of the XIX Certamen de Coreografía de Danza España y Flamenco of Madrid with his piece *Siempre Me Pasa Lo Mismo*. His second solo work premiered in Granada at the Corral del Carbón in 2014, and in 2015 he presented the same show at the IV Bienal de Flamenco de Málaga. In 2017 he represented at the Albuquerque Flamenco Festival as well as traveled to Toronto to the Aga Museum. In 2018, he presented at the 22nd Festival de Jerez in the Sala Compañía, receiving great reception from the public and press. Also that year, he was awarded 2nd Prize Desplante in the international contest *Cante de Las Minas de la Unión*.

Santana's latest production *Las 4 Esquinas del Perchel* premiered within the framework of the VI Bienal de Arte Flamenco de Málaga at the closing gala of the festival at the Teatro Cervantes, having great success. The dancer from Malaga has also performed in festivals such as the Bienal de Sevilla, London Flamenco Festival, New York Flamenco Festival, Japan and the Acropolis of Greece among many others. He has also performed in productions by artists such as Granero and Antonio Canales. As a teacher, Santana has traveled to several continents giving courses in the USA, New Mexico, Japan, Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Israel, Russia, and Italy. In Spain he has worked at different conservatories and schools as a guest teacher.

YouTube channel: [www.youtube.com/@TheatreFlamencoSF](http://www.youtube.com/@TheatreFlamencoSF)

**For Calendar Editors:**

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