

UC SANTA BARBARA

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Alumni Gift Brings Ballet Hispanico to UC Santa Barbara for Weeklong Residency

Renowned international dance company Ballet Hispanico will help kick off the new year at UC Santa Barbara, offering free instruction to dance students as well as free performances and classes in the community. Their appearance comes courtesy of alumnus John Arnhold '75, and his wife, Jody, herself a veteran dance teacher and passionate advocate for dance education.

A six-figure gift from the Arnholds will fund the residency by New York-based Ballet Hispanico -- the nation's premier Latino dance ensemble -- that also includes outreach to area schools. Their arrival launches a new season of ¡Viva el Arte de Santa Barbara!, a multi-organization collaboration to bring free music and dance from diverse traditions to venues and schools across the county.

Ballet Hispanico's visit will feature family shows in Isla Vista, Guadalupe, and downtown Santa Barbara; free classes in Latin social dance in Santa Barbara, Santa Maria, and Guadalupe; and assemblies at nine local schools. The ensemble will also instruct UCSB dance students in ballet and modern technique, and give them a private showcase.

Such community connections are a priority for the 12-member company, which preserves and celebrates today's Latino cultures through innovative artistic

collaborations, world-class dance training, and national education and outreach efforts. Led by artistic director Eduardo Vilaro, who is credited with steering the company to new ground with innovative new programs, Ballet Hispanico has performed in 11 countries on three continents. It boasts dancers from the U.S., Mexico, Cuba, Venezuela, and Italy, whose collective repertory blends Latin dance with ballet and modern techniques.

Jody Gottfried Arnhold is a Ballet Hispanico board member, most recently serving as its chair. The group paid her special tribute at a recent gala celebrating its new season. A dance teacher in New York City's public school system for nearly 25 years -- and a champion for dance education -- Arnhold received the National Dance Education Organization's Visionary Award in 2009. She is founding director of the 92 Street Y's Dance Education Laboratory, and co-chair of a committee to draft the New York City Department of Education Curriculum Blueprint for Teaching & Learning in Dance. She partners in several efforts to recruit and support certified dance teachers in New York, and chairs the Hunter College Dance Education Advisory Committee. She earned a master's degree in dance education from Columbia University's Teachers College.

John Arnhold, who earned a bachelor's degree in English from UCSB, is a trustee of the UC Santa Barbara Foundation. The Arnholds have been generous benefactors of the English department since 2005. For the last three years, they have supported UCSB dance students participating in the 92nd Street Y Summer Intensive Dance program in New York.

Ballet Hispanico's three free family shows will be held at:

- Isla Vista School -- Friday, January 11, 7 p.m., 6875 El Colegio Road, Isla Vista; (805) 893-5037 for info
- Guadalupe City Hall -- Saturday, January 12, 7:30 p.m., 918 Obispo Street, Guadalupe; (805) 343-2939 for info
- Santa Barbara Junior High Marjorie Luke Theatre -- Sunday, January 13, 7 p.m., 721 E. Cota Street, Santa Barbara; (805) 884-4087 x. 7 for info

Free Latin social dance classes will be held at:

- La Cumbre Junior High -- Thursday, January 10, 7-8:30 p.m., 2255 Modoc Road, Santa Barbara
- Abel Maldonado Youth Center -- Saturday, January 12, 12-1 p.m., 600 S. McClelland Street, Santa Maria
- El Padrecito's Dance Studio -- Saturday, January 12, 12-1 p.m., and 1:15-2:15 p.m., 950A Guadalupe Street, Guadalupe
- Santa Barbara Junior High -- Sunday, January 13, 1-2 p.m., 721 E. Cota Street, Santa Barbara

¡Viva el Arte de Santa Barbara! is a cooperative program of the Marjorie Luke Theatre, the Guadalupe Cultural Arts & Education Center, Isla Vista School, and UCSB Arts & Lectures. In 2011, it was recognized by the National Association of Performing Arts Presenters as one of two exemplary outreach programs in the nation.

About UC Santa Barbara

The University of California, Santa Barbara is a leading research institution that also provides a comprehensive liberal arts learning experience. Our academic community of faculty, students, and staff is characterized by a culture of interdisciplinary collaboration that is responsive to the needs of our multicultural and global society. All of this takes place within a living and learning environment like no other, as we draw inspiration from the beauty and resources of our extraordinary location at the edge of the Pacific Ocean.