

# ZOHAR PERFORMANCE SERIES 10



Saturday  
March 29, 2025  
7:30pm



ZOHAR STUDIO THEATRE  
4000 MIDDLEFIELD ROAD L4 | PALO ALTO, CA

# Welcome

## ***Zohar is Splendor in Hebrew***

Zohar Performance Series celebrates the splendor of dance through programs that feature a variety of dance genres and styles that celebrate our dance community.

This fall marks our 46th year of sharing our love of dance and building community through programs such as the one you are experiencing tonight. When Ehud Krauss founded Zohar in 1979, it was his vision to make Zohar a welcoming place to learn and experience dance. This past October marked eighth years since he passed, and there are many new faces at Zohar who never knew Ehud nor had the privilege of experiencing his humor, drive and his unique mashugana! But Ehud lives on in the essence of Zohar.... touching lives, creating a space for dance to be created, performed, and experienced.

We give thanks to all the artists that made tonight's performance possible. These beautiful performers are all here because they share a passion for dance and the performing arts and rejoice in the opportunity to share it with you. Zohar's Board of Directors, thank you for supporting our vision and Ehud's legacy. The volunteers that make it possible to enjoy the performance. And you, the audience, for your presence and supporting the arts.

Your attendance supports Zohar and these artists. You can continue to be a part of Zohar's legacy, the artists performing tonight, and the organizations that they represent in other ways as well... you can attend our performance, take classes, and of course, a donation is always appreciated! Ticket sales and class fees are not enough to cover our daily expenses and your donation is tax-deductible. You can find the donation link for Zohar at the end of the program.

Thank you for your continued support of the Performing Arts. Enjoy and experience the splendor of dance at Zohar!

Daynee Lai-Krauss & Vivian Sam  
Co-Artistic & Executive Directors



## PROGRAM

### UYGHER LADIES

*Baigali and Dancers*

Choreographer: Baigali & Dilana

Music: Unknown Artist

Dancers: Baigali, HanMei, Melinda

### SEED

*Natasha Carlitz Dance Ensemble*

Choreographer: Natasha Carlitz with Audra Edwards

Music: Johann Sebastian Bach, "Sonata for Violin Solo No. 2 in A Minor, BWV 1003 - 4. Allegro," performed by Hilary Hahn, violin

Dancer: Audra Edwards

### AT MOUNT HERMON PANDEROSA LODGE

Choreographer & Dancer: Angus Wu

Music: Top of the World - The Carpenters

### FROM COCOON TO BUTTERFLY

*Baigali and Dancers*

Choreographer: Baigali

Music: Clearing by Grouper & Star Sky by Two Steps From Hell

Dancer: XiaoYao



## CLAIR DE LUNE

Choreographers & Dancers: Tracy Fuller and Brooke Wertwijn

Music: Clair de Lune by Claude Debussy

## LE CORSAIRE - MALE VARIATION

*Gugulethu Ballet Project*

Choreographer & Dancer: Chuma Mathiso

Music: Adolphe Adam, Césaire Pugni, Léo Delibes, Riccardo Drigo, and Prince Oldenbourg

## ULJHAAN (TANGLED)

### PICTURE PERFECT

Choreographer & Dancer: Drasti Mody

Music: "The Cradle Song" by Kudamaloor Janardanan, Krishna Nee Begane Baro (Instrumental) by Ramachandra Murthy and Sai Madhukar with vocal overlay by Sindhu Natarajan  
Akhil Joondeph, Music Editor

*Break*



## BLUE SKIES

Choreographer: Peter Bullen & Roni Chau - improvised  
Music: Blue Skies, Artist: Eyal Vilner Big Band  
Dancers: Peter Bullen and Roni Chau

## MONGOLIAN RHYTHM

*Baigali and Dancers*

Choreographer: Baigali  
Music: "Tovshuur Mini" by Deed Mongol  
Dancers: Baigali, HanMei, ZhaoHong

## OCEAN

*Natasha Carlitz Dance Ensemble*

Choreographer: Natasha Carlitz  
Music: Mike Coffin, "Ulysses"  
Dancers: Audra Edwards, Maggie Hurd-Fleck, Jeanne-Claudius Martin, Elizabeth Musco, Alyssa Plummer, Brooke Wertwijn, Clara Yang

## GLAD

Choreographers & Dancers: Jim Ballard, Tracy Fuller  
Music: Glad - Andrew Bird





## **MONGOLIAN BOWL DANCE**

*Baigali and Dancers*

Choreographer: Baigali

Music: Original Soundtrack

Dancers: HanMei, ZhaoHong

## **CHUMA**

*Gugulethu Ballet Project*

Choreographer: Manacan - Nathan Bartman & Ciara Baldwin

Music: Original music by Manacan

Dancer: Chuma Mathiso

## **FLAME OF HOPE**

*Baigali and Dancers*

Choreographer & Dancer: Baigali

Music: Original Soundtrack

## **FRIEND LIKE ME**

Choreographers: Peter Bullen & Roni Chau

Music: Friend Like Me, Artist: Ne-Yo

Dancers: Peling Lee, Jen Yuan, Annika Mauro, Roni Chau, Michelle Li, Adrie Wong, George Chen, Michael Ninh, Jabari Hastings, PT Zhang, Zhing Kwong, Howard Ting

Thank You



# Artists

## Baigali and Dancers

Baigali and Dancers is committed to preserving and sharing the rich traditions of Mongolian and other East Asian ethnic dance forms. As an independent, woman-owned studio, Baigali and Dancers provides a welcoming space for dancers of all levels to explore cultural dance while developing strength, flexibility, and confidence.

For Baigali and Dancers, dance is more than movement—it is a journey of self-discovery, connection, and healing for both body and soul. The studio is dedicated to providing a supportive and inspiring environment for the dancers to experience the joy of dance.

Baigali, a member of the Urad tribe from Inner Mongolia, China, holds a Bachelor of Arts from Minzu University (China College of Dance) and two Master's degrees. She first earned her Master of Fine Arts in Choreography and Dance Directing from the Mongolian University of Art and Culture in Mongolia. After relocating to the United States, she pursued and obtained her second Master's degree in Dance Education from New York University. Throughout her academic journey, Baigali garnered numerous awards in prestigious dance competitions, including the Lotus Cup and Taoli Cup. She also gained extensive experience as a choreographer and dance teacher, working for many years at the Primary School Affiliated to Capital Normal University and the Beijing Institute of Fashion Technology. As a seasoned educator, she has dedicated years to preparing students for dance school entrance exams and guiding them toward admission into top-tier dance colleges. In addition to her teaching accomplishments, Baigali served as the Chief Director and choreographer for the 2019 Inner Mongolia Spring Festival Gala. That same year, she was also invited to judge a fashion model competition in Hohhot, China. In 2021, Baigali and her partner co-founded their dance studio, Baigali and Dancers. Through her passion for dance and her consistent, disciplined training methods, Baigali aspires to inspire and nurture the inner dancer in everyone.

<https://www.baigalianddancers.com/>



# Artists

## Angus Wu

Ho Ming “Angus” Wu, from Hong Kong, trained in eastern, Chinese and western folk dance from the age of eleven. He attended Irvine Valley College under Marie De La Palme and Jimmie Defore Dance Center Scholarship Student Program under Gloria Defore. He obtained B.F.A. Degree in Dance in Choreography and B.A. in Psychology and Social Behavior at the University of California, Irvine. Upon graduation, he danced at Menlowe Ballet as an apprentice. He also attended different programs like Alonzo King LINES Ballet Summer Intensive, San Francisco Conservatory of Dance Winter Intensive and Zion Dance Project.

## Drasti Mody

Drasti Mody is a performer, choreographer, dance educator based in Saratoga, CA. As a performer, Drasti is known for her high energy, beautiful expressions and versatile dance training. Reflecting on her duality as an Indian-American immigrant, Drasti's styles span devotional pieces rooted in traditional Bharatanatyam to more fusion-based choreography with Western influences. Drasti is currently exploring her own artistic voice by developing a full-length work exploring themes of identity and its evolution through motherhood. In 2020, at the height of the pandemic, Drasti initiated her formal teaching journey with the blessings of her Guruji Shreemati Jamuna Mitcham. She returned to her dance career as an educator to share her love and passion for dance with her community. As a mother of two, Drasti aspires to pass on the rich Indian culture and heritage more than ever. See Drasti in a full evening performance May 10 & 11 at Zohar Performance Space. <https://drastimody.com/>





# Artists

## Tracy Fuller & Jim Ballard

Tracy Fuller and Jim Ballard first worked together in the creation of Fermata Ballet Collective, a non profit based in Eugene, OR. They are excited to present a new collaborative work.

## Peter Bullen & Roni Chau

Peter Bullen is an enthusiastic dancer known for dancing with a playful style, getting into unexpected dance battles, and being tall. Although his very first steps as a dancer began with Dance Dance Revolution and “how to breakdance” VHS tapes, Peter’s dance journey took off at Stanford when he discovered the joys of dancing together with a partner. Since then, Peter has embarked on countless dancing adventures such as creating a tuxedo fashion show, dancing to live bands on top of the Rockefeller Center, and auditioning for So You Think You Can Dance with a Charleston-breaking fusion piece. Thanks to everyone from Swingtime, Troposomatic, Viennese Ball, Swing Cats, Wednesday Night Hop, Syncopated City, Gatsby Entertainment, South Bay Musical Theatre, and West Valley Light Opera for all the friendship, mentorship, and memories along the way. Now, Peter is excited to be continuing his dancing journey at Zohar Dance Company! Outside of dancing, Peter enjoys playing with lasers, composing music, entangling photons, and being a ninja.

Roni Chau was first introduced to swing dancing in 2013 after moving back to the Bay from college. She was instantly mesmerized by the dance style and lively music. Her favorite jazz band is Naomi and Her Handsome Devils. She is an alumni of Double or Nothing, a performance group that danced at venues all around the Bay. Roni continues her journey as a swing dancer; always looking to improve her own connection with the music, the dance and her partners.



# Artists

## **Gugulethu Ballet Project & Chuma Mathiso**

Under the direction of Kristine Elliott, Gugulethu Ballet Project's mission is to bring the art of classical ballet to the children and youth of South African townships. Through the study of ballet, including contemporary forms built upon classical foundations, young dancers learn personal discipline, respect for themselves and others, artistic expression, resilience, and focus. Uniting art and service, Gugulethu Ballet Project partners with dance communities to expand opportunities for young people in the townships of South Africa.

<https://www.gugulethuballetproject.org/>

Chuma Mathiso is from Zolani township in South Africa. He began his training at Dancescape and participated in intensive training with Alvin Ailey Dance Theater, American Ballet Theater, and Alonzo King LINES. From 2022-2024, Chuma was a trainee with Jazzart Dance Theatre. He is currently a trainee with Alonzo King LINES Ballet Program.

MANACAN is a South African Company based in London consisting of two artists, Ciara Baldwin and Nathan Bartman, who choreograph, compose, perform and tour their own productions. MANA in the language KhoeKhoegowab means 'them that give' and CAN stands for 'Ciara and Nathan'.

They explore primal topics and express them through dance, physicality, vocals and music – their style is earthy and influenced by their South African roots. They work with dance and musical styles ranging from African and hip-hop to contemporary, while continually learning from different styles, places and people, taking them to unique and often vulnerable places both physically and spiritually.



# Artists

## **Natasha Carlitz Dance Ensemble**

Founded in 2005, the Natasha Carlitz Dance Ensemble performs powerful modern dance choreography addressing themes ranging from abstract mathematical concepts and verbal games to the physical puzzles posed by unusual spaces. In 2010, NCDE was invited to represent the United States at the Egyptian International Modern Dance Festival, during which Natasha led a modern master class with Egypt's national dance company and NCDE performed concerts in Cairo and Alexandria. <https://carlitzdance.org/>

## **Tracy Fuller & Brooke Wertwijn**

Tracy and Brooke are freelance artists in the Bay Area. They've been dancing together since 2022 and are excited to share this new duet with an audience!



# ZPS Staff

**Executive Artistic Director/Producer: Daynee Lai-Krauss**

**Technical Crew/Lighting: I-Heng McComb**

**Technical Crew/Sound: Natasha Carlitz**

**Videographer: Catherine Perman**

**Photographer: Kyle Adler (kadlerphotography.com)**

**Stage Manager: Vivian Sam**

**House Manager: Daynee Lai-Krauss**

**Volunteers: Monika Chock, Monica Espinosa, Joanie Yamamoto**

*We hope that you enjoyed tonight's program. Ticket sales and class fees are not enough to cover our daily operation. It is through donations that Zohar is able to present these diverse programs for you to experience our amazing dance community in the Bay Area. Make a donation now to support the next performance!*

*Donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.*

*Scan the QR code to make a donation!*



# *Zohar Dance Company*

**Zohar School of Dance and Company is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization based in Palo Alto, California. Founded by Ehud Krauss in 1979 and under the direction of Daynee Lai-Krauss and Vivian Sam, Zohar is dedicated to making dance accessible, inclusive, vibrant, relevant, and integral to its community.**

**Zohar offers an open program of dance classes for adults in jazz, ballet, contemporary, tap, and modern dance. Starting in 2022, Zohar added classes and workshops to support our local (musical) theatre community in audition preparation, voice, and acting, to name a few.**



## **ZOHAR DANCE COMPANY UPCOMING EVENTS & WORKSHOPS**

**April 19, 2025 - Luigi Style Master Class taught by Joey Doucette**

**April 19, 2025 - Our first “Z TALK” an evening in conversation with Joey Doucette and Hama... Jazz Dance Legacy**

**April 20, 2025 - Master Class with Hama**

**June 16-20, 2025 - Summer Dance Intensive**

**July 12, 2025 - Zohar Performance Series 11**

**November 8, 2025 - Zohar Performance Series 12**

**Check our website for more information  
[www.ZoharDanceCompany.org](http://www.ZoharDanceCompany.org)**



# *Zohar Dance Company*

**Daynee Lai-Krauss**

**Co-Founder | Co-Artistic Executive Director**

**Vivian Sam**

**Co-Artistic Executive Director**

**Ehud Krauss (1946-2016)**

**Co-Founder | Artistic Director**

## **Board of Directors**

**Elaine Phoutrides, President**

**Jan Penagos, Secretary**

**Daynee Lai-Krauss, Treasurer**

**Susan Bailey**

**Karen Kwan**

**Vivian Sam**

**LeeAnne Sera**

## **Zohar Teaching Artists**

**Frances Devlin, Voice**

**Kristine Elliott, Ballet**

**Daniel Gautier, Accompanist**

**Daynee Lai-Krauss, Jazz**

**Lee Ann Payne, Tap**

**Vivian Sam, Jazz**

**Augusto Silva, Ballet**

**Charles Torres, Ballet**

