



Zohar

Performance Series

Twelve

Saturday
November 8, 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 nine 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 thank 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 presence tonight helps uplift Zohar and the incredible artists you've just seen. But your impact doesn't have to end here. By attending future performances, joining our classes, and making a donation, you become a vital part of sustaining Zohar's legacy and supporting the broader artistic community we champion. Ticket sales and class fees only cover a portion of our expenses — your generous, tax-deductible donation helps bridge that gap and ensures we can continue offering transformative experiences through dance.

To support us, simply follow the donation link at the end of the program. Every contribution makes a difference — thank you

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

EIGHT

Natasha Carlitz Dance Ensemble

Choreographer: Natasha Carlitz

Music: Steve Reich, "Drumming" (excerpt), performed by So Percussion

Dancers: Skylar Rose Adams, Natasha Carlitz (understudy), Jeanne-Claudius Martin, Elizabeth Musco, Alyssa Plummer, Avery Rissling, Brooke Wertwijn, Clara Yang



THE UNRAVELING

Googirl

Choreographers: Chason Fu, Mia Li

Music: I'm a Little Fish by Wang OK & Pei-Yu Hung

Dancers: Yuxin Wu, Wanwan Zhu

DANCING WITH MY WHEEL

Choreographed and Performed by: Monica Espinosa

Music: Lips On You by Maroon 5

DEMETER

Demeter is a Greek name derived by de (Earth) and meter (mother)

Katerina Bousleli / Feng Ye Dance Studio

Choreographer: Katerina Bousleli

Music: Xenitemena mou poulia by Alkyone

Dancers: Katerina Bousleli, Manaka Okazaki



RAYMONDA ACT 3 VARIATION

Googirl

Choreographer: Jing Zhang after Marius Petipa

Music: Raymonda by Alexander Glazunov

Dancer: Tianjia Chen

WOVEN

San Jose Dance Theatre

Choreographer: Cassidy Isaacson

Music: Ala single by Joep Beving, Prehension by Joep Beving,
Latent Dream by Mattia Vlad Morleo

Costumes: Kay Pettit

San Jose Dance Theatre Studio Company Dancers: Aliyah
Benedek, Nanami Cheng, Ranya Farooque, Sofi Figueroa, Ava
Forde, Jocelyn Garcia, Jocelyn Hsieh, Elyse Huynh, Anika
Sison, Lorelei Vienne, Ellie Wong, Ashley Xu

I'M Walking

Wednesday Night Hoppers

Choreographers: Kevin Weng & Audrey Ho

Music: I'm Walking by Charly Antolini

Dancers: Alice Chang, Penny Tsai, Rosetta Phan, Annie Hall,
Audrey Ho, Richard Lin, Steven Bach, Arnav Sen Sharma,
Calvin Chu, PT Zhang, Ian Millado, Alex Khelenyuk

Intermission



DR. JONES / TRIO FOR SIX / SOPHIE GERMAIN

Excerpts from Nevertheless She Persisted by MoveSpeakSpin

Choreography: Dr. Jones - Karl Schaffer and the Dancers; Trio for Six - Karl Schaffer, Scott Kim, Barbara Susco; Sophie Germain - Karl Schaffer

Music: Dr. Jones; Morricone

Dancers: Dr. Jones - Jane Real, Laurel Shastri; Trio for Six - Jane Real, Lila Salhov, Laurel Shastri; Sophie Germain - Hannah Woolfenden

PANIGYRI

Panigyri is a traditional Greek festival that brings people together through dance, food, and drink- a moment of shared joy, connection and celebration across generations. It's an invitation to celebrate togetherness, culture, and the simple beauty of movement and life.

Katerina Bousleli / Feng Ye Dance Studio

Choreographer: Katerina Bousleli

Music: Afoussis by Gidiki

Dancers: Zongjie Diao, Michelle Fong, Sarah Tang, Calvin Yin, Jun Wang, Liina Wang

A MOTHER'S LULLABY

Choreographer & Dancer: Erin Akrobetu

Music: Fields of Forever by Chad Lawson



WHITE LAKE

Baigali & Dancers

Choreographer: Baigali

Music: Qagan Nur by Moergen

Dancers: Hanmei,

XiaoYao,

Melinda,

Yiyi



HOLOGRAM excerpt Majesty

sjDANCEco

Choreographer: Maria Basile, sjDANCEco

Music: Little Pieces from My Heart: III. Pavane by Mona Lyn Reese

Dancers: Luis Isiordia and Emily Nagase

SWINGIN' THROUGH HISTORY

Wednesday Night Hoppers

Choreographers: Frankie Manning, Mama Lu Parks,
Various (arr. Audrey Ho)

Music: Rockin' in Rhythm - Duke Ellington Orchestra

Dancers: Alex Khelenyuk, Alice Chang, Arnav Sen Sharma,
Audrey Ho, Annie Hall, Calvin Chu, Ian Millado, Richard
Lin, Rosetta Phan

Thank You



Artists

Baigali & Dancers

Baigali, a member of the Urad tribe from Inner Mongolia, China, holds a B.A. in Dance from Minzu University, an MFA in Choreography and Dance Directing from the Mongolian University of Art and Culture, and a Master's in Dance Education from New York University.

She has won top honors in competitions such as the Lotus Cup and Taoli Cup, and taught at leading institutions including the Primary School Affiliated to Capital Normal University and Beijing Institute of Fashion Technology. In the U.S., she has guest lectured at NYU Steinhardt and Manhattan Public High School, where her classes were warmly received.

Her professional work includes serving as Chief Director and choreographer for the 2019 Inner Mongolia Spring Festival Gala and as a judge in a fashion model competition in Hohhot, China. In 2021, she established her dance company, Baigali and Dancers, dedicated to bringing original choreography to the stage. In 2024, the company's debut showcase *Thriving* at the Sunnyvale Theater was a resounding success, with audience members calling it the best performance by amateur dancers they had seen in decades.

Baigali's teaching is rigorous yet holistic, combining flexibility, strength, and technique with aesthetics and emotional expression. With her systematic approach, she inspires every student—amateur or aspiring professional—to unlock their fullest potential in dance. <https://baigalianddancers.com/>

Erin Akrobetu

Born and raised in Jackson, MS, Erin received her BFA in dance from Belhaven University. While in college, she had the opportunity to work with artists such as Cynthia Newland, Caleb Mitchell, Ravenna Tucker, Laura Morton, Stephen Wynne, David Keary, Steve Rooks, Randall Flinn, and Emily Wright. During her senior year, Erin was accepted into Alvin Ailey's summer intensive where she spent 6 weeks training in Horton, Graham, and Ballet. Following college, Erin moved to Cleveland, OH to dance with Inlet Dance Theatre as a Company Member, Choreographer, and Teaching Artist. During her 8 years with Inlet, Erin had the opportunity to perform throughout the United States and premier new works at the second largest Playhouse Square, located in Cleveland, as well as performing at Jacob's Pillow's Inside/Out Series. After moving to the Bay Area in 2021, Erin danced as a company member for sjDANCEco, under the direction of Gary Masters and Maria Basile. She has held masterclasses in Erick Hawkins technique and Non-Traditional Partnering at Belhaven University, Hillsdale College, and University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. She has over 15 years of teaching experience in ballet, modern, improvisation, and non-traditional partnering.

Artists

Googirl

Googirl is the largest all-gender Googler dance group in the Bay Area. Our divisions include Ballet, Chinese Dance, Contemporary, Latin, Street Dance.

Katerina Bousleli / Feng Ye Dance Studio

Aikaterini (Katerina) Bousleli, born in Greece is a dancer, choreographer, and educator based in the Bay Area. She has performed in Revolution is a Dinner Party at the Palo Alto Art Center and presented work at the D.I.R.T. Festival (San Francisco) and the SpARC Dance Festival (San Jose). As a choreographer, she has created works for San Francisco State University (Iketis, OikoSystem) and the Feng Ye Youth Dance Ensemble (Blue, Ideal), with performances at the Pear Theatre and Mission Dance Theatre.

Previously, she performed widely in Greece with AniMotus Dance Company, ReDance, Faos, and b.area 4, and appeared at festivals such as Reload and Pocket Dance Festival.

She is currently a Dance Faculty Lecturer at San Francisco State University and holds an M.A. in Theatre Arts and a B.A. in Greek Philology.

Monica Espinosa

Monica is a UX researcher, dancer, and circus artist. Born and raised in Monterrey, NL, Mexico. She danced jazz in Monterrey, at Le Jazz Ballet Studio from the age of 5 up until she was 17 years old; she started dancing again only two years ago at Zohar Dance Company. She has been doing Cyr wheel for about 3 years. She likes to explore different ways of combining dance, movement, and the circus arts. This is her first performance with her wheel. When she is not exploring movement, Monica works as a UX researcher at a medical device company called Intuitive, company that designs and manufactures the da Vinci surgical robot.



Artists

MoveSpeakSpin

Karl Schaffer directs Santa Cruz based dancers in MoveSpeakSpin, a Santa Cruz based dance ensemble co-directed by Schaffer and Erik Stern since 1987. They have toured throughout North America and to Europe and Asia and have received five grants from the National Endowment for the Arts for their math and dance integration work. "Dr. Jones," "Trio for Six," and "Sophie Germain" are three sections of the concert Nevertheless She Persisted which celebrates the lives and work of important women mathematicians. "Trio for Six" was co-choreographed by Schaffer, Scott Kim, and Barbara Susco, and was created in the 1990s. Schaffer's recent work includes the 2025 show Calculated Movements on resistance to the current political situation in the United States, Pitter Pattern, exploring beautiful and enchanting patterns in dance, rhythm, and shape, and Nevertheless She Persisted. Schaffer and Stern are designated Teaching Artists with the Kennedy Center. Schaffer's choreography often links dance, mathematics, and social justice issues, and he has published widely on these connections. <https://movespeakspin.com/>

Natasha Carlitz Dance Ensemble

Founded in 2005, the Natasha Carlitz Dance Ensemble presented its inaugural concert in partnership with the internationally acclaimed California Guitar Trio and since then has produced twelve more full-length programs as well as appearing in dozens of showcases and festivals around the Bay Area. Athletic and spirited, NCDE dancers bring both strong technique and emotional depth to their performances.

With its strong focus on musicality, the company has commissioned work from a number of composers and seizes opportunities to perform with live musicians, including two invitations from folk-rock duo Emma's Revolution. "Serious and graceful work... displays creativity and talent that are worth seeing... One of the really successful features of Carlitz' work is that the selected music and choreography fit so well together," writes Michael Phelan of baydance.com.

NCDE has received funding from Fort Mason Foundation through "In Performance Series" grants (supported by Grants for the Arts / San Francisco Hotel Tax Fund and The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation), has participated in ODC's Pilot series for emerging artists, and is grateful for the ongoing sponsorship of DanceVisions. <https://carlitzdance.org/about/company>



Artists

San Jose Dance Theatre

San Jose Dance Theatre was originally founded in 1964 as Paul E. Curtis Jr.'s Los Gatos Academy of Dance and the West Valley Ballet Foundation. The name was later changed to San Jose Dance Theatre in 1965 and incorporated as a nonprofit educational organization. For more than 58 years, San Jose Dance Theatre has specialized in classical ballet training for children from four years of age, to the advanced pre-professional level. Many SJDT alumni have gone on to prominent University and Conservatory programs, as well as successful careers in dance.

San Jose Dance Theatre has delighted local audiences for six decades with performances including Cinderella, Alice in Wonderland, The Little Mermaid, The Wizard of Oz & Sleeping Beauty. In December 2025, we will celebrate our 60th annual production of The Original San Jose Nutcracker at the San Jose Center for the Performing Arts. <https://www.sjdt.org/>

Cassidy Isaacson / Choreographer / San Jose Dance Theatre

Cassidy Isaacson began her dance training at the age of four in Redmond, Washington, at her hometown studio, Gotta Dance. Her passion and talent soon led her to Pacific Northwest Ballet, where she progressed through every level before continuing her training under the private mentorship of Deborah Hadley. At just 16, Cassidy joined Grand Rapids Ballet, where she danced professionally for eight seasons. She is now based in San Francisco and performs with Smuin Contemporary Ballet, where she continues to grow as an artist, educator, and choreographer.

Cassidy has been choreographing since her teens and brings a deep love for teaching into every studio she enters. She has worked with both competition-focused studios and pre-professional ballet schools, giving her a versatile and well-rounded approach to coaching young dancers. Specializing in contemporary, she is passionate about guiding students beyond their comfort zones and helping them unlock their full potential.



Artists

sjDANCEco

Founded in 2003 to meet the need for contemporary dance opportunities, sjDANCEco serves both the community of San Jose residents and the community of local dance artists. We have put into place exemplary programs that enable local residents to experience top quality contemporary dance performances in San Jose. We have introduced new audiences to dance and, through consistent excellence in our performance series, we strive to instill a lasting appreciation for the art form. <https://www.sjdanceco.org/home.html>

Wednesday Night Hoppers

Wednesday Night Hoppers is the inaugural student team from local community studio Wednesday Night Hop, located in Palo Alto, which specializes in a variety of swing and vernacular jazz dances. The team was established with the goal of growing our students' sense of rhythm, flair, and confidence on the dance floor. Under the direction of Kevin Weng and Audrey Ho, the team recently took fourth at the National Jitterbug Championships. Feeling inspired by the performance? Wednesday Night Hop has weekly drop-in beginner swing dance classes, as well as monthly progressive series for those interested in leveling up. Come dance with us! <https://wednesdaynighthop.com/>

Lindy Hop and vernacular jazz, created as part of the Harlem Renaissance, are pivotal to many styles of dance that we know and love today. In our second routine, we've arranged a medley of influential standards, classics, and line dances to take you through a bit of swing dance history: Big Apple, Mama Stew, Shim Sham, Tranky Doo, First Stops, and California Routine. These dances were choreographed and performed by the likes of Whitey's Lindy Hoppers, Frankie Manning, Mama Lu Parks, and more. Some of them can be seen in movies such as *Keep Punching* and the infamous *Hellzapoppin'*.



ZPS Staff

Executive Artistic Director/Producer: Daynee Lai-Krauss

Technical Crew/Lighting: I-Heng McComb

Technical Crew/Sound: Natasha Carlitz

Videographer: Jimmy Guo

Photographer: Kyle Adler (kadlerphotography.com)

Stage Manager: Vivian Sam

House Manager: Daynee Lai-Krauss

Volunteers: Catherine Perman, Allison Rockwell, Tracy Tian

We hope that you enjoyed tonight's program. Ticket sales and class fees are not enough to cover our daily operation. It is through individual donations that Zohar is able to present these diverse programs for you to experience our amazing dance community in the Bay Area. Make your 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, tap, and modern dance. Workshops include: college preparation, audition preparation, voice, teacher training and more!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, December 6 - Pop Groove with Christine Baker

Saturday, February 7, 2026 - College-Bound Performing Artists Family Info Session

Spring 2026 - Z'Talk, Guest Speaker

Spring 2026 - Zohar Performance Series 13

Luigi Technique Teacher Certification

Fall 2026 - Zohar Getaway (2025 was New York City!)

Check our website for more information

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

Kristine Elliott, Ballet

Tracy Fuller, Ballet

Daniel Gautier, Accompanist

Daynee Lai-Krauss, Jazz

Lee Ann Payne, Tap

Vivian Sam, Jazz

Charles Torres, Ballet

Brooke Wertwijn, Ballet

