



ZOHAR PERFORMANCE SERIES 13

**Saturday
March 28, 2026
7:30pm**



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



Welcome

Zohar — זֹהָר — Splendor in Hebrew

Splendor. That is what you are witnessing tonight — and it is the very word at the heart of everything we do. **Zohar**, our name, means splendor in Hebrew, and it is both a promise and an invitation: to experience dance in its fullest, most radiant form.

This fall marks our **46th year** of making good on that promise. When **Ehud Krauss founded Zohar in 1979**, he had a simple but powerful belief — that dance should be a welcoming place, a space where anyone could learn, create, and be moved. Ehud brought humor, drive, and a wonderful mashugana spirit to everything he touched. This past October marked nine years since he left us, and while many faces in this room never had the privilege of knowing him, his vision is alive in every performance, every class, every conversation about dance that happens within these walls. **Zohar is Ehud's legacy — and tonight, you are part of it.**

The artists sharing the stage with you tonight are here because they love what you love. They have given their time, their bodies, and their hearts to bring you this experience — and they do it for the joy of sharing dance with a community that shows up. Thank you to our Board of Directors for sustaining Ehud's vision, to our volunteers for making the evening possible, and to **you**, for being here.

Keep the splendor going

Tonight is just one chapter. The Zohar Performance Series continues throughout the year, and every program brings something new — new genres, new artists, new conversations about where dance has been and where it is going.

Come back. Bring someone with you. Join a class. And if you are moved to give, your tax-deductible donation helps bridge the gap between what tickets cover and what it truly takes to keep this community thriving. Every contribution — of any size — ensures that Zohar's doors stay open for the next generation of dancers and audiences.

To donate, follow the link at the end of this program. To stay connected, ask us about our upcoming performances and classes tonight.

Thank you for supporting the performing arts. Now — experience the splendor.

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



PROGRAM

TEN

Natasha Carlitz Dance Ensemble

Choreographer: Natasha Carlitz

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

Dancers: Skylar Rose Adams, Natasha Carlitz, Jeanne-Claudius Casanova, Yuna Choi, Maggie Hurd-Fleck, Elizabeth Musco, Avery Rissling, Tatianna Steiner, Brooke Wertwijn, Clara Yang

YES AND MAYBE

Choreographers & Dancers: Lydia Feuerhelm-Chiu, Siyu Duan

Music: Moiré (Piano & Organ) by Jan Jelinek, Chōchin by MEITEI, Antimache by Dino Sabatini

MO(U)RNING

HaoExpression Dance Company

Choreographer: Brooke Wertwijn for HaoExpression Dance Company

Music: Faith's Hymn by Beautiful Chorus

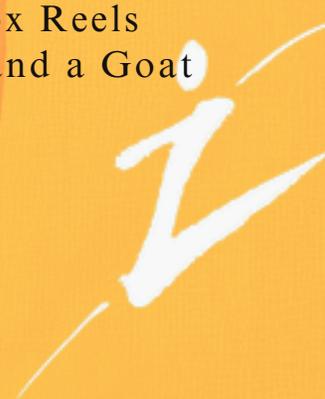
Dancers: Erin Eley, Tracy Fuller, Katie Wolfe

BAREFOOT GODDESSES IN THE SUNSHINE

Choreographers & Dancers: Erin Akrobetu and Jessica Hofmann

Music: Napoleon's: The Drunken Police Car/the Box Reels

#2/Music for a Found Harmonium by Ten Strings and a Goat Skin



ALMOST WORTH IT

Teddy O'Brien / Teddy's Next Project

Choreography: Teddy O'Brien

Music: Flood by Boris

Dancers: Charlotte Rosa and Teddy O'Brien

WOMEN'S WORK

Claire Alexander & Dancers

Choreographer: Claire Alexander

Music: "Hound Dog" performed by Big Mama Thornton, "Don't Let Me Be Misunderstood" performed by Nina Simone, "(You Don't Know) How Glad I Am" performed by Nancy Wilson

Dancers: Michelle Barnes, Madelyn Davis, Masa Leskovsek, Esther Selk, Jessica Whittemore, Holly Woodrow (maybe Elena Grindley and Tiffany Jianto)

Intermission

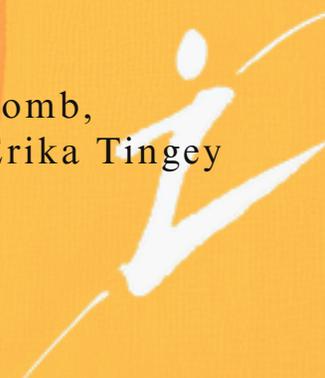
WAIT

High Release Dance

Choreographer: Virginia Bock

Music: "Roundmouth" by Zalem Delarbre

Dancers: Yuna Choi, Laurel Howard, I-Heng McComb, Ysabel Sanchez, Maricia Scott, Tracey Stanelun, Erika Tingey



DANDELION

Choreographer & Dancer: Brooke Wertwijn
Music: Andrei by Martin Phipps & The BBC National
Orchestra of Wales

J.N

Choreographer: Tobias Echeverria
Music: Untitled by Tobias Echeverria
Dancers: Charlotte Rosa, Ela Solmsen, Kayla Soto

NIKITA'S DEATH VARIATION

Choreographer: Marius Petipa
Music: La Bayadere, Act II: 35. "Entrance and Variation -
Nikiya" by Ludwig Minkus
Dancer: Amrita Jade

LUNATIC

Choreographer & Dancer: Sydney Strong
Music: Moonlight Serenade Glenn Miller



SPRING WATERS

HaoExpression Dance Company

Choreographer: Original choreography by Asaf Messerer,
adaptation by Augusto Silva

Music: Sergei Rachmaninoff, Spring Waters

Costume: Mary Masee

Dancers: Nicole Khoo, Duran Andrade

TELL ME IT'S FOREVER

Choreographer: Amrita Jade

Music: Synfuels (prelude) by Elusin, Elskling by Elusin,
Kerosene by Crystal Castles

Dancers: Karina Eimon, Tracy Fuller, Brooke Wertwijn

AS IT SEEMS

Zohar Jazz Ensemble

Choreographer: Lisa Deyo

Staged by: Adrienne Foley

Music: Black Hole Sun, Everybody Hurts, Smells Like Teen
Spirit, Wonderwall by Paul Anka

Dancers: Susan Bailey, Vera Dorzhinova, Monica Espinosa,
Gabriella Goldstein, Adriana Hokk, Terry Jacobs, Jolie
LeBlanc, I-Heng McComb, Katelyn Olsen, Patty Pflaging,
Esther Selk

Thank You



Artists

Amrita Jade

Amrita began her early ballet training at the Ballet School of Chapel Hill in North Carolina before moving to the Bay Area, where she continued her studies with Agape Dance Academy, Santa Cruz Ballet Theatre and Los Gatos Ballet. Throughout high school, she trained under Anton Pankevich, whose mentorship helped refine her classical technique and artistry. She also attended summer intensives at Carolina Ballet, Joffrey Academy, Silicon Valley Ballet, San Jose Ballet, Bolshoi Ballet Academy, and Joffrey Ballet school.

Amrita went on to pursue her passion for both the arts and sciences at the University of Utah, earning dual degrees in Ballet and Physics. During her time there, she fostered her love of choreography and contemporary ballet, presenting original works in performances at the School of Dance and throughout the Salt Lake City arts community.

After graduation, she joined Grand Kyiv Ballet on tour, performing Swan Lake in cities across the West Coast. She has since returned to the Bay Area, where she continues to take daily classes at Zohar Dance Company, develop independent creative projects, and share her love of movement with students. Outside the studio, she enjoys fashion, photography, music, and riding motorcycles — interests that inspire her artistry and sense of expression both on and off the stage.

Brooke Wertwijn

Brooke Wertwijn is a freelance dancer in the Bay Area and currently dancing with Natasha Carlitz Dance Ensemble.

Originally from Minnesota, Brooke trained under Ashley Burkland. She graduated from the University of Utah School of Dance with a B.F.A. in Ballet, Ballet Studio Teaching Certificate, and Business Minor. Brooke was a member of SALT Contemporary Dance's Pre-Professional Training Company and a Trainee at Ballet Idaho. She was a Company Artist with San Jose Dance Theatre for the 2022-2024 seasons and was the Academy Director in 2024. Recently, Brooke has danced with Oakland Ballet, Peninsula Ballet Theatre, and eMotion Arts. She has also performed internationally in the Czech Republic, South Korea, and Italy.

Brooke has taught at schools in Minnesota, Utah, Idaho, and California. She is an ABT® Certified Teacher in Pre-Primary through Level 3 of the ABT® National Training Curriculum. Her choreography has been presented at the Minnesota Fringe Festival, Cathedral Dance Festival, American College Dance Association's Northwest Conference, SHAPE Choreography Festival, University of Utah Ballet Showcase, The Ballet Alliance, and the Zohar Performance Series.

Artists

Claire Alexander & Dancers

Claire Alexander is a choreographer, educator, and creative leader who believes in the power of movement to inspire, connect, and transform. With over 25 years of experience in dance, theater, and curriculum development, she has worked with thousands of young performers, shaping not just their technique but their confidence, artistry, and love for the craft. Her work blends musical theater, jazz, tap, and contemporary styles, always driven by a deep commitment to storytelling and musicality.

<https://onaclaireday.co/>

Erin Akrobetu and Jessica Hofmann

Jessica Hofmann recently moved to the Bay Area from Portland, OR. Motherhood has been the main creative force in her work since she had her two boys. Her favorite place to dance is out in nature, inspired by connections of the earth. Jessica co-created RoseLynn Dance, a choreographic duo who reflects their lives through their art. She has created many dance films and choreography for the stage through RoseLynn Dance sharing work in the Portland area. She has a BS in dance from the University of Oregon, has danced with Polaris Dance Company and has been teaching dance to all ages since 2018.

Born and raised in Jackson, MS, Erin received her BFA in dance from Belhaven University. Following college, she moved to Cleveland, OH where she danced with Inlet Dance Theatre. During her 8 years with Inlet, Erin had the opportunity to perform at Jacob's Pillow's Inside/Out Series, as well several evening length performances throughout the United States. 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. Becoming a mother to Eliza in 2021 has been her sole focus, but has brought new joy and perspective to movement.

Erin and Jessica met in 2025 and are joining creative forces, friendship, and exploration as they move their bodies through motherhood and new terrain.



Artists

HaoExpression Dance Company

HaoExpression Dance Company is a newly established nonprofit dedicated to supporting professional dancers in the creation of new works and performance. The organization provides the essential resources and platform needed to sustain the careers of independent artists.

Upcoming:

HaoExpression Dance Company and Studio present
AFTERNOON OF A FAUN | APRIL EXPRESSION 2026
Saturday 4/25/2026 - 7:00 PM, Sunday 4/26/2026 - 4:00 PM
Zohar Studio Theater, Palo Alto, CA

<https://www.haoexpression.com/company.html>

High Release Dance

HIGH RELEASE DANCE was founded in 1994 by a group of modern dancers seeking to pursue their own artistic visions and performance opportunities in a collaborative environment while still having time for families, careers, and other pursuits. The group's current focus is on creating new works and presenting pieces in different performance venues. While primarily based in modern dance, the group explores a range of dance styles, with each member acting as both choreographer of her own works and dancer in other choreographers' pieces. High Release is unique in that the group has no director, but works as a completely democratic organization in which each member has equal voice and contributes her particular talents.

Website: www.highrelease.dance
Instagram: [highreleasedance](https://www.instagram.com/highreleasedance)



Artists

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 in 2006 and since then has produced fifteen more full-length programs as well as appearing in dozens of showcases and festivals around the Bay Area. NCDE is currently preparing a retrospective and new suite for its 20th Anniversary celebration concert in September 2026.

In 2010, NCDE was invited to represent the United States at the Egyptian International Modern Dance Festival, performing full-length concerts in Cairo and Alexandria. "Last week the Natasha Carlitz Dance Ensemble presented a breathtaking show," wrote Rania Khallaf for Cairo's Al-Ahram Weekly. "A choreographer and dancer, Carlitz imbued the stage with a spirit of enthusiasm, romance and joy. The ensemble... resonated with a sense of ecstasy and challenge."

Artistic Director Natasha Carlitz began her dance training in Palo Alto nearly 50 years ago with Grace Butler, a former Nikolais dancer, and performed as a child and young adult with CHORD (Children's Original Repertory Dance) and SMDC (the Saturday Morning Dance Company). She has studied dance in London, Amsterdam, Massachusetts, and Maine — including improvisation and choreography workshops with Pilobolus founder Jonathan Wolken and aerial dance in the Sierras with Bandaloop.

Upcoming
Natasha Carlitz Dance Ensemble 20th Anniversary
September 11 & 12
Z Space, San Francisco

www.carlitzdance.org
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Natasha-Carlitz-Dance-Ensemble/478239755053>

Siyu & Lydia

Siyu Duan is a dance performer, choreographer, and instructor from Taiwan, currently based in the Bay Area since 2023. She began her professional career in 2014, working across performance, teaching, and creation. Selected highlights include co-creating evening-length works presented at the Taipei Fringe Festival (2020, 2022), performing in Re-collection by Alexandra Pirici at SFMOMA, and appearing in Palladium with Kinetic Arts (2024).

Through her journey across different dance forms, Siyu has come to see contemporary dance and theatre as the spaces where her body and voice feel most truthful. Creating and performing allow her to explore movement with curiosity, to stretch beyond technical limits, and to place something deeply personal into the work—opening a quiet, honest dialogue with the audience.

<https://www.instagram.com/siyuduann/>

Artists

Siyu & Lydia, cont'd

Lydia Feuerhelm-Chiu is a contemporary dance choreographer, educator, and videomaker based in the Bay Area, CA. Her passion for performing arts started at a young age, and has remained a guiding force throughout her life. Selected recent highlights include co-presenting *In a New Light* (2022) with Natasha Carlitz Dance Ensemble, assistant directing *In the Presence of Absence* (2023) with Deborah Slater Dance Theater, and appearing in *Palladium with Kinetic Arts* (2024). Her creative practice is driven by a deep belief in the power of movement to connect people and communicate shared experiences. She teaches adult classes regularly at DanceVisions in Palo Alto along with working with Rapt Productions as a videographer & editor. Learn more about her at LFdance.com

<https://www.instagram.com/lydiafeuerhelm/>

Sydney Strong

Sydney Strong is a graduate of the Joffrey Ballet School in New York City. They have lived in the bay area for the past five years where they have had the opportunity to perform for San Jose Dance Theatre, Opera San Jose and Oceanica Ballet. While living in the Bay Area they have had the opportunity to choreograph two short ballets for San Jose Dance Theatre and Dance Out Loud presented by Purdance Studios. They are currently a teacher in the San Jose area and enjoys choreographing whenever there is an opportunity.

<https://www.instagram.com/balletsstrong/>

Teddy O'Brien / Teddy's Next Project

Teddy O'Brien started his formal dance training at San Francisco Ballet School and Berkeley Ballet Theater. He is an alum of the Alonzo King Lines Ballet Training Program and is currently studying at The Training Ground San Francisco, both under the direction of Karah Abiog. Professionally, he has performed works by Robert Moses and Megan and Shannon Kurashige as part of Robert Moses' Kin's 30th anniversary season and worked as a guest ballet dancer around the Bay Area. In training, he has had the opportunity to work with choreographers such as Rena Butler, Babatunji Johnson, Ihsan Rustem, Chuck Wilt, Robin Dekkers, Dexandro Montalvo, David Harvey, and Kira Fargas, along with many others.

<https://www.instagram.com/teddysnextproject/>



Artists

Tobias Echeverria

Tobias Echeverria is a dancer and choreographer based in San Francisco, California. Recent work includes Circle of Fifths (Hasten Dance) and A View of the Water (HLM) in Los Angeles and various performances throughout San Francisco as part of the Emerging Choreographers Forum with Mark Foehringer, the Alonzo King LINES Ballet Training Program, and The Training Ground SF. Tobias studied music, dance, and theatre at UCLA, NYU Tisch, Alonzo King LINES Ballet Training Program, and The Training Ground SF. He sincerely appreciates Daynee and Zohar for having this ensemble as a part of tonight's program.

Upcoming:
Dancing in the Park SF, April 25

Zohar Jazz Ensemble

Lisa Deyo is the founder, artistic director and choreographer of DeyoDances. Originally from San Luis Obispo, Lisa has performed in numerous commercial and concert works, most notably as a company member of Hubbard Street Dance Chicago. Returning to San Luis Obispo to form Deyo Dances in 2006, Lisa was named the winner of an ART INSPIRES! Individual Artist's Grant for choreography and has had commissions in Colorado, Virginia, California and Barcelona. Lisa's ballet, Out Of Water, was chosen as one of six finalists in the International Competition of Classical Choreography as part of the Nouveau Festival International de Danse de Paris. Lisa continues to teach, choreograph and produce her works in San Luis Obispo and abroad.

www.deyodances.com

Adrienne Foley is a colleague of Lisa Deyo's and is a former company member of Hubbard Street Dance Chicago. Adrienne had the pleasure of dancing the piece, "As It Seems" for DeyoDances in 2024 and was fortunate enough to be granted permission to stage it on the Zohar Jazz ensemble. Adrienne currently resides in San Francisco and is an educator and choreographer, teaching contemporary classes at ODC and Jazz at Zohar. Adrienne is a board member and choreographer for the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, and a board member of Smuin Contemporary Ballet. She is grateful for the opportunity to work with the dancers performing tonight.



ZPS Staff

Executive Artistic Director/Producer: Daynee Lai-Krauss

Technical Crew/Lighting: Virginia Bock

Technical Crew/Sound: Dylan Tingey

Videographer: Jimmy Guo

Photographer: Kyle Adler (kadlerphotography.com)

Stage Manager: Vivian Sam

House Manager: Daynee Lai-Krauss

Volunteers: Monika Chock, Catherine Perman, 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 Co-Directed with his wife, Daynee Lai-Krauss, until his passing in 2016. In 2021, Vivian Sam joined Daynee as Co-Director to ensure that Ehud's legacy continues and that Zohar remains a meaningful part of our greater community.

The Splendor of Zohar is rooted in dance technique taught by instructors with professional performance and teaching backgrounds, ensuring that every student receives a strong technical foundation grounded in artistry and integrity. Our dedication to dance extends beyond movement. We champion dance as both a vital art form and a transformative force for personal growth, while remaining committed to making dance accessible, inclusive, vibrant, relevant, and essential to our community.



UPCOMING EVENTS

April 18 2026 - Z'Talk, The Ballet Help Desk
July 17-19 - Luigi Technique Teacher Certification
Fall 2026 - Zohar Getaway (2025 was New York City!)
November 7, 2026 - Zohar Performance Series 14

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

Tiffany Jianto

Karen Kwan

Vivian Sam

LeeAnne Sera

ZOHAR TEACHING ARTISTS

Claire Alexander, Contemporary/Artist in Residence

Jen Aubrecht, Ballet

Jennifer Cuevas, Jazz

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

