

ZOHAR 14 PERFORMANCE SERIES

Saturday
Noveber 7, 2026
7:30pm

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

Welcome

Zohar — זֹהַר — 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

ENTOMOLOGICAL KALEIDOSCOPE
Natasha Carlitz Dance Ensemble - Modern
Choreographer: Natasha Carlitz
Music: Mike Coffin, "Circles"
Costume: Natasha Carlitz, Nutmeg McDougal, Ruby McDougal
Dancers: Jeanne-Claudius Casanova, Clara Michaud, Elizabeth Musco, Alyssa Plummer, Avery Rissling, Brooke Wertwijn

WHERE WE ONCE SAT
Googirl - Contemporary
Choreographers: Chason Fu
Music: Mom's Cooking, Buyi Mao
Dancers: Yuxin Wu, Tian Zhang

SEEK
Flight Dance Collective - Contemporary
Choreographer: Joce Satterberg
Music: Tourbillon by Julia Kent
Dancers: Allana Evans, Nikki Hall, Clara Michaud, Nathalie Perez, Joce Satterberg, Lea Shemy

SLEEPING BEAUTY - BLUE BIRD PAS DE DEUX
HaoExpression Dance Company - Ballet
Choreographer: from Marius Petipa
Music: Tchaikovski
Dancers: Duran Andrade, Nicole Khoo

LONGING
Baigali and Dancers - Mongolian Folk Dance
Choreography: Baigali
Music:
Costume: Baigali
Dancers: Hanmei Chen

WEIGHT GIVES WAY
sjDANCEco - Contemporary
Choreographer: Nhan Ho
Music: Moonlight Sonata, by Beethoven
Dancers: Maya Agrawal, Kelly Barry, Siyu Duan, Gabriella Wei

Intermission

CINDER
Flight Dance Collective - Contemporary
Choreographer: Joce Satterbert
Music: Reha By Travis lake and Lj by Travis Lake
Dancers: Allana Evans, Nikki Hall, Clara Michaud, Nathalie Perez, Joce Satterberg, Lea Shemy

LOVE OF SIGANGLI
Baigali and Dancers - Wa Folk Dance
Choreographer: Baigali
Costume: Baigali and Chunmei Liu
Music:
Dancers: AJ Wu, Yao Xiao

DULCINEA
Googirl - Ballet
Choreographer: Jing Zhang after Marius Petipa
Music: Ludwig Minkus
Dancer: Tianjia Chen

RE-Claiming
Jeannine Charles - Modern
Choreographer: Jeannine Charles
Music: Whodunit by FableForte
Dancers: Jeannine Charles, Monika Chock

MISSING
Natasha Carlitz Dance Ensemble - Modern
Choreographer: Natasha Carlitz
Music: Mozart, "Gran Partita": III. Adagio
Costume: Kim Baxter & Karen McWilliams
Dancers: Alyssa Plummer, Avery Rissling, Brooke Wertwijn

GADA MEILIN
Baigali and Dancers - Mongolian Folk Dance
Choreographed and Performed by: Baigali
Music:
Costume: Baigali and Chunmei Liu

Pause

hI_human.Intelligence
Casey Tessier + Accentap - Tap
Structured Improvisation
Music & Dancers: Lorin Benedict, Dylan Ray Garcia, Kaya Moody, Edward Paddock, Casey Tessier, Graham Viegut

Thank you for joining us and celebrating the splendor of dance!

Artists

Baigali and Dancers

Baigali and Dancers is a Bay Area dance company led by artistic director, choreographer, and educator Ms. Baigali. Its repertoire celebrates the dance traditions of ethnic minority communities across Asia, including Mongolian, Uyghur, Tibetan, and Dai dances, alongside ballet and contemporary works. Through original choreography, teaching, and community performances, the company shares the cultural richness and expressive power of dance with diverse audiences.

https://baigalianddancers.com/

Casey Tessier + Accentap

Casey Tessier (@pi.taps) is a tap dance artist and award-winning percussionist from Albuquerque, New Mexico. Based in Oakland, California, she has performed as a tap dancer and jazz percussionist in Italy, Mexico, Canada, and throughout the United States. Tessier has devoted her life to honoring, sharing, and innovating percussive dance as a medium to represent, communicate, and inspire immersive experiences in rhythm. Holding a B.S. in Pure Mathematics and Latin from the University of New Mexico, and having an extensive background in marching percussion, her studies continuously inform the creative direction of Accentap: an innovative, interdisciplinary ensemble rooted in the veneration of vernacular jazz traditions of the African Diaspora through a multifaceted lens.

https://caseytessier.com/accentap
Instagram: @_accentap

Upcoming:
Weekly Monday Open Jam (Free!) and Wine-Inspired Tap Classes in Oakland

Artists

Flight Dance Collective

Joce Satterberg is a dancer, choreographer, and Artistic Director whose work is rooted in contemporary movement, community, and sustainable artistry. She is the founder and Artistic Director of FLIGHT Dance Collective, an active Bay Area contemporary dance company that performs regularly throughout the region. Through FLIGHT, Joce creates and presents original choreographic work while cultivating opportunities for dancers to perform, collaborate, and grow within an inclusive and artistically driven environment.

Joce grew up competing before earning her B.A. in Dance from San Francisco State University and building a professional performance career spanning more than 18 years. She has performed with companies and artists including UDT, KANEISEE Collective, AyanaDanceArts, eMotion Arts Dance Company, KTCHN SYNC, and Garrett + Moulton Productions.

In addition to her work as a performing artist and choreographer, Joce is a yoga teacher (RYT 200) and certified wellness coach with a multidisciplinary background in sports medicine, personal training, nutrition, and exercise wellness. Her approach bridges athletic strength, artistic expression, and mental clarity, with a particular focus on helping dancers build sustainable relationships with movement and their bodies.

Through her choreography, teaching, and artistic leadership, Joce is passionate about building a dance community where artists have opportunities to perform, create, connect, and continue evolving throughout their careers.

https://www.danceflight.org/ https://www.instagram.com/dncefdc/?hl=en

Upcoming: Landini Collective October 30,31 and December 12

Artists

Googirl

Bay Area's largest Tech employee dance community
Ballet • Chinese • Contemporary • Latin • Street

https://www.instagram.com/svdcc.official?stkn=NmFvYXh4MHVuYW14&utm_source=qr

HaoExpression Dance Company

HaoExpression Dance Company enriches communities through the transformative power of ballet. We create compelling performances, cultivate artistic excellence, and provide meaningful opportunities for dancers and audiences to experience the beauty, discipline, and emotional depth of this timeless art form.

Under the artistic direction of Augusto Silva, HEDC brings together independent professional dancers to create and present classical and neoclassical ballet productions. The company supports artists through performance opportunities, creative collaboration, stipends, and resources, while bringing meaningful dance experiences to Bay Area audiences.

HaoExpression Dance Company is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit professional ballet company based in Mountain View, California.

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

Jeannine Charles

Jeannine Charles has been choreographing, dancing, and teaching in the Bay Area since 1995.

www.artistedge.net

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.

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

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.

Nhan Ho, Choreographer

Nhan Ho is a dedicated dance professional with extensive experience in performing, choreographing, and mentoring across the United States. As the founder and Artistic Director of the Nhan Ho Project since 2010, he has created numerous professional opportunities for artists, helping them achieve their full potential. His innovative and unpredictable choreography has been showcased nationwide at esteemed venues such as sjDANCEco's ChoreoProject Awards, West Wave Dance Festival, and more. Nhan's work reflects a deep respect for diverse dance styles and a commitment to cultural understanding and adaptability. He has choreographed for numerous academic and professional programs, including Sacramento State University, San Jose State University, Modesto Junior College, and the University of Idaho. As a performer, Nhan has collaborated with renowned companies such as BODYART Dance Company, Sasha Soreff Dance Theatre, and PUSH Dance Company. He balances his roles as a performer, choreographer, instructor, director, and mentor, bringing a wealth of practical experience to his teaching.

www.sjDANCEco.org
https://www.facebook.com/sjdanceco/
https://www.instagram.com/sjdanceco/

Upcoming:
sjDANCEco FREE Spring Festival @ Santana Row, April 24+25, 2027

ZPS Staff

Executive Artistic Director/Producer: Daynee Lai-Krauss
Technical Crew/Lighting: I-Heng McComb
Technical Crew/Sound: Bess Shubb
Videographer: Catherine Perman
Photographer: Kyle Adler (kadlerphotography.com)
Stage Manager: Vivian Sam
House Manager: Daynee Lai-Krauss
Volunteers: Mia Blank, Catherine Perman, Adriee Wong

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!

Support Zohar

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

November 22 - Groovy '60s-style dance class with Kayvon Kordestani (free!)
December 19 & 22 - Learn a Musical Theatre Choreography: A Chorus Line
April 17, 2027 - Zohar Performance Series 15
Fall 2027 - Zohar Getaway (2026 was in New York!)
November 6, 2027 - Zohar Performance Series 16

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
Tiffany Jianto
Karen Kwan
Vivian Sam
LeeAnne Sera

ZOHAR TEACHING ARTISTS

Kristine Elliott, Ballet
Tracy Fuller, Ballet
Daniel Gautier, Accompanist
Amrita Jade, Ballet
Daynee Lai-Krauss, Jazz
Lee Ann Payne, Tap
Vivian Sam, Jazz
Charles Torres, Ballet
Brooke Wertwijn, Ballet
Don White, Accompanist