

FOR IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Enrico Labayen 415-509-3129, pr@labayendancesf.org

CALENDAR EDITOR, Please note:

Labayen Dance SF announces the company's Spring Season 2012: "Revivals & Premieres" featuring award winning works by Enrico Labayen in "Cloth", Isadora Duncan (The Izzies) Awardee for Outstanding Achievement in Choreography and "en-Gulf-ed", nominated for Outstanding Achievement in Visual Design this year by The Izzies plus the world premiere of a large scale work for 19 dancers "Kulang and Dasal" & "Rice Blues", a light-hearted romp inspired by the Harajuku street fashion in Japan. Also the revival of "Frida: Broken Column" and the world premiere of Laura Bernasconi's "Marriage Song", a dance duet that explores the spiritual, personal and physical support that connects and intertwines human relationship at ODC Theater on April 20-22, 2012

WHO: Labayen Dance SF's (LD/SF) Spring Season 2012: **Revivals & Premieres**, features the award winning choreography of Enrico Labayen. The concert will include two premieres and one revival of works by Labayen and new piece by guest choreographer Laura Bernasconi.

WHAT: Labayen Dance/SF proudly presents the premiere of two new works by Enrico Labayen "Kulang Ang Dasal (Prayer is Not Enough)", is an expedition into the perception of memory and reason alluding to the Jewish holocaust expressed through a collection of narrative driven scenarios and choreographic explorations and "Rice Blues", a playful work inspired by the Harajuku street fashion in Japan. Mr. Labayen's "en-Gulf-ed", explores the many dimensions, illusions and realities of cause and effect, beauty and truth, and shared hubris, ignorance and irresponsible environmental human stewardship and has earned Mr. Labayen a second Isadora Duncan nomination for Outstanding Achievement in Visual Design, 2010-2011. Also on the program is the revival of "Frida: Broken Column (2010)", a dance theatre piece both mourns and celebrates the life and art of Mexican visual artist, Frida Kahlo and Labayen's 1997 Isadora Duncan Award for Outstanding Achievement in Choreography entitled "Cloth", a dance for two men that investigates missed opportunities for meaningful connections and un-requested emotions. Guest choreographer Laura Bernasconi premieres "Marriage Song", a duet inspired by the multi-faceted dimensions of human interactions and relationships.

WHERE: ODC Theater 3153 Seventeenth Street, San Francisco, CA 94110

WHEN: April 20 & 21 at 8pm and April 22 at 3pm

TICKETS: \$25.00 available at ODC Theater Box Office or call 415.863.9834.
Online at www.odctheater.org or www.labayendancesf.org

For photographs, pls. contact us at: pr@labayendancesf.org or download high resolution photos at www.labayendancesf.org

DESCRIPTION:

(San Francisco, March 2012)- **Labayen Dance/SF**, one of the Bay Area's most exciting and innovative dance companies, is proud to present the world premiere of Enrico Labayen's "Kulang Ang Dasal (Prayer is Not Enough)", an expedition into the perception of memory and reason alluding to the Jewish holocaust expressed through a collection of narrative driven scenarios and choreographic exploration and the premiere of "Rice Blues", a light-hearted romp inspired by the Harajuku street fashion in Japan; plus the world premiere work of guest choreographer Laura Bernasconi in "Marriage Song" a duet that explores the spiritual, personal and physical support that connects and intertwines human relationships. The concert will present the revival of "Cloth", a male duet about missed connection and unrequited emotion, winner of the Isadora Duncan Award ("The Izzies") for Outstanding Achievement in Choreography in 1997; "en-Gulf-ed" a work that explores the many dimensions, illusions and realities of cause and effect, beauty and truth, and shared hubris, ignorance and irresponsible environmental human stewardship and has earned Mr. Labayen a second Isadora Duncan nomination for Outstanding Achievement in Visual Design, 2010-2011; "Frida: Broken Column (2010)", a dance theatre piece that explores the life and art of Mexican visual artist, Frida Kahlo.

PREMIERES:

The centerpiece of the concert is the world premiere of Enrico Labayen's "**Kulang Ang Dasal** (lit. Tagalog, Praying is not enough)", the new work alludes to the Jewish holocaust, and the work is an expedition into the perception of memory and reason expressed through a collection of narrative-driven scenarios and choreographic exploration. The world premiere work will gently dismantle the barriers between performance and ritual in order to reconnect with nature--our human nature and "**Rice Blues**", a light-hearted, gender bending romp inspired by the Harajuku street fashion in Japan; plus a new work from guest choreographer Laura Bernasconi in "**Marriage Song**" a duet that explores the spiritual, personal and physical support that connects and intertwines human relationships

REVIVALS:

En-Gulf-ed; a work that was conceived in response to the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico --a work that explores the many dimensions, illusions and realities of cause and effect, beauty and truth, and shared hubris, ignorance and irresponsible environmental human stewardship and has earned Mr. Labayen a second Isadora Duncan nomination for Outstanding Achievement in Visual Design, 2010-2011, described as " *a poignantly beautiful solo... left behind is the remarkable truth that beauty, at its purest, is graceful in humility, immutable in strength and unshakably unending -- perfect and eternal.* – *MED, Columbia Press*

Frida: Broken Column, inspired by the self-portraits of the famous Mexican painter Frida Kahlo--investigates the relationship of Ms. Kahlo's self-portraits as an autobiographical rendition in painting of the actuality of her own life rather than that of written words. Hailed by critics as "*absolutely astounding; every movement merging seamlessly with the next*",. – *Dance Documentary*

"**Cloth**" is a male duet inspired by King Solomon's Songs of Songs known for its sensuality and vivid imagery and is performed with a lengthy diaphanous strip of fabric stretching and collapsing between the two male dancers. Labayen received an Isadora Duncan Dance Award for Outstanding Achievement in Choreography the season it was premiered at the one-time Brady Street Dance Center in 1996-97. *Dance Magazine* hailed the work as "hypnotic and mesmerizing, a refreshing view of contemporary dance."

Enrico Labayen, (Choreographer) A recipient of the Isadora Duncan Award for Outstanding Achievement in Choreography and other awards, Labayen has also worked as dancer, guestballet master and choreographer with the San Francisco Opera, Dance Spectrum, Sacramento Ballet, Bern Ballet in Switzerland, Mainz Stadt Theatre, Rottebuhlplatz Stuttgart, Potsdam and Berlin in Germany, Singapore Dance Theatre, LINES Contemporary Ballet-US, Hong Kong Ballet, BalletPhilippines, Salzburg Experimental Academy of Dance in Austria, Carte Blanche Contemporary Dance Company in Norway, Icelandic Ballet in Iceland and Philippine Ballet Theatre. Labayen is a grantee of California Arts Council, SF Arts Commission, and Grants for the Arts, The Zellerbach Fund, Arts International and International Theatre Institute and guest artist for such residencies as the Djerassi Artist in Residence (US) and Rimbun Dahan Artist residency in Malaysia, The Netherlands Dance Theatre (Holland) and the Asian Institute for Liturgy and Music.

Mr. Labayen has received awards, fellowships & citations from Beaux Arts Society of New York as *"Dancer of the Year"*; The Dutch Ministry of Cultural Exchange Fellowship Award, Asian Institute for Liturgy and Music Residency Fellowship' *"Choreographer of the Year"* award by Manila Chronicle (Philippines); The Isadora Duncan Award for *"Outstanding Achievement in Choreography"* (USA); *Filipino American Faces of the Century* - *"...one of the Filipino Americans whose lives celebrate all that the Filipino American is capable of and have truly shaped our history in the United States and given the Filipino Americans and its community the inspiration to realize their dreams."*; Filipinas Achievement Award (USA); The City of Manila's *"Patnubay ng Sining at Kalinangan Award"* (Guardian of Art and Culture) for Dance in the 2004; Named as a *Global Filipino* by The Filipino Channel, International (TFC), Cultural Caregiving Travel Grant to Australia; Guest lecturer at University of New South Wales, Sydney; Residency at Djerassi Artists Residency (US), Rimbun Dahan Artist Residency (Malaysia), UN-International Theatre Institute, National Commission for Art and Culture, The Cultural Center of the Philippines

The Company:

Labayen Dance/SF (LD/SF) founded in 1994, is dedicated in nurturing the artistic activities and the choreographic work of its founder and director, Enrico Labayen. LD/SF's repertory stems from Mr. Labayen's unique background; it combines his firm base in classical and modern American dance with his Philippine heritage and its eastern philosophical and artistic assumptions.

Central to Enrico Labayen's work is the desire to communicate with the audience. Whether defining a narrative through movement, or eliciting a specific emotional response, the dramatic integrity of his work draws the audience in, encouraging them to take part in a collective artistic experience. At LD/SF, we envision a concert scenario in which the audience, regardless of cultural, gender and political background, connects deeply with our artistic and cultural ideals. We embrace our culture, while simultaneously challenging stereotypes and pushing boundaries, believing that art and dance can serve as a vehicle for understanding and identification between all human beings.

Labayen Dance/SF is also enjoying tremendous success nationally and abroad at venues such as the Delacorte Dance Festival (NYC); Lincoln Center Out of Doors Festival (NYC); The Singapore International Arts Festival; Odyssey Arts Exposition (Singapore); Internationales Tanz Theater (Bonn, Germany); Dance For Tolerance (Bielefeld, Germany); Dance with Objects Festival (Potsdam, Germany); Stuttgart Tanz Festival (Germany); Amman International Theater Festival (Jordan); Filipino American Arts Exposition (USA); Music and Arts Festival @ Columbia University's Miller Theater (New York City, USA); Lesbian and Gay Dance Festival (San Francisco, USA); Human Rights International Arts Festival (San Francisco, USA); Men Dancing Fest (San Francisco, USA); Autumn Dance Series (San Francisco, USA); Bay Area Dance Series (Oakland/San Francisco USA); International Theatre Festival (Philippines); UNESCO-International Theatre Institute's Theatre World Theatre Olympics (Philippines).

The Company is a grantee of California Arts Council, San Francisco Arts Commission California Artists Series, San Francisco Grants for the Arts, International Theater Institute (Asia), University of New South Wales in Australia, National Commission on Arts and Culture (Philippines), University of the Philippines (UP) Film Department, Arts International (USA), The Zellerbach Family Fund, The Hotel Tax Fund, The Asian and Asian-Pacific Islander Cultural Grant for United States of Asian Americans.

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