



MEDIA RELATIONS CONTACT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Jan. 21, 2009

“Tango Fire” Shines at the Mondavi Center

Davis, Calif.—On **Tuesday, Feb. 17**, at **8 p.m.**, **Tango Fire** brings a journey through the history of tango—often considered the world’s most alluring dance—to **Jackson Hall** of the **Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts, UC Davis**. Set against a backdrop of music by **Astor Piazzolla, Matos Rodríguez** and many others, **Tango Fire** traces the dance’s evolution from its origins in the red-light district of Buenos Aires to the glamour of the Roaring Twenties to the contemporary ballroom floor.

Says **Don Roth**, Mondavi Center executive director, “This is the first return of *Estampas Porteñas* since opening the Mondavi Center season in 2006–07. This is one of the best troupes worldwide—playing and dancing in the great tango tradition—performing the consistently exciting “**Tango Fire**,” a program that created a sensation at the 2005 Edinburg Festival.”

Pricing is \$45/35/25 for regular tickets and \$22.50/17.50/12.50 for students and children. Purchase tickets online at MondaviArts.org, through the Mondavi Center box office at 530-754-2787 or 866-754-2787 (toll-free), or at the door. Accommodations for persons with disabilities are available upon request. This event is presented as part of the Mondavi Center’s **World Stage: Dance** series.

The Mondavi Center Arts Education Program also presents **Tango Fire** as part of the **2008–09 School Matinee Series** at Jackson Hall on Tuesday, Feb. 17, at 11 a.m. The School Matinee Series is made available for teachers and students, including homeschoolers. Performances in this series support the California Department of Education Visual and Performing Arts Content Standards. Educators interested in purchasing tickets should call 530-754-4689.

Featuring a quintet of young musicians, ten dancers and one singer, **Tango Fire** is led by **Yanina Faiar**, director of choreography, and **Nelson Celis**, assistant to the choreographer—both of whom dance on the program. **Faiar**, born in Buenos Aires in 1977, started dancing at the age of 6. She studied dance at Fracasi Conservatoire of Dance, obtaining a degree in Arabian belly dance, Spanish folklore dance and Argentine folklore dance. She studied with many of the leading tango dancers in Argentina, including Sandra Butz, Gabriel Ortega, Silvio Lavia, Nito and Elva García and Pepito Avellaneda. Faiar performed with the Juan Carlos Copes Tango Ballet from 1996 to 1997 and the Gloria & Eduardo Youth Tango Ballet company during 1997 and 1998.

Over the past 12 years, Faiar and her dance partner **Nelson Celis** have performed in the most prestigious tango houses in Buenos Aires. In 1994, they won the National Tango Competition, which toured Italy and Spain.

In Buenos Aires, Faiar and Celis danced with the Opera Theatre of Buenos Aires, the Cervantes National Theatre and the Auditorium Theatre of Mar del Plata. They have toured internationally with many of the best tango companies and orchestras, including Enrique Dumas and the Carlos Galván Orchestra, Compania Tango and the Roberto Montirolli Orchestra, Graciela Arcelli and the Sexteto Sur Orchestra, Tango Bizarro Company and Los Cosos de al Lao Orchestra, and Tango Dreams Company and the Cristian Zárate Orchestra.

Faiar has performed solo in Scotland, England, the United States, Canada, Germany, Switzerland, China, Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, South Africa, New Zealand and Australia. Together, Faiar and Celis have performed in Italy, Spain, Peru, Paraguay, the U.S. and Japan. Faiar and Celis have been in Tango Fire since 2005. Find more information, including video, at www.tango-fire.com.

- **Tango Fire**
- **Tue., Feb. 17, 8 p.m.**
- **Mondavi Center, Jackson Hall**
- **9399 Old Davis Road, Davis, CA 95616 (GPS)**
- **\$45/35/25 regular; \$22.50/17.50/12.50 students, children**
- **530-754-2787**
866-754-2787 (toll-free)
530-754-5402 (TDD)
MondaviArts.org

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