

**PRESIDIO  
THEATRE**  
& La Tania Baile Flamenco present

# SOLAZ



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**World premiere / July 21, 22, 23, 2023**

Artistic Direction La Tania and Adrián Arias. Music by Jose Luis de La Paz.

Inspired by the Temple of Debod, which was built in the second century BC and rescued during the flooding of Nubia, when Egypt was constructing the Aswan Dam in the 1960's. This ancient Temple was cut into pieces and transported to Madrid, where it was reconstructed and now serves as a beacon of cultural survival in the face of massive global displacement.



## Program

### I. El Templo (The Temple) Prelude (In the Plaza)

Musicians: Gary Haggerty (oud) and Faisal Zedan (derbakki)  
The Man with the Suitcases - performer: Adrian Arias

### II. Llegada (Arrival)

Dancers: La Tania, Melissa Cruz, Mizuho Sato, Cristina Hall  
Music composition and guitar: Jose Luis de la Paz  
Percussion: Adolfo Herrera, Voice: Raquel Heredia  
Effects: Lester Paredes, Mix and mastering: Vlademir Quintero

### III. Baile de Las Maletas (The Suitcase Dance)

Dancers: La Tania, Melissa Cruz, Mizuho Sato, Cristina Hall  
Music composition and guitar: José Luis de la Paz  
Percussion: JLP and Adolfo Herrera, Flutes: Lester Paredes  
Mix & mastering: Vlademir Quintero

### IV. El Hoyo (The Hole)

Dancer: Mizuho Sato  
Music composition and guitar: José Luis de la Paz  
Percussion: Adolfo Herrera, Flutes: Lester Paredes  
Mix and mastering: Vlademir Quintero

### V. Florecer (Blossom)

Dancer: Cristina Hall  
Choreography: Cristina Hall & La Tania  
Music composition and guitar: José Luis de la Paz  
Percussion: JLP and Adolfo Herrera, Effects: Lester Paredes  
Mix and mastering: Vlademir Quintero

### VI. Aire (Air)

Dancers: Melissa Cruz, Cristina Hall, Mizuho Sato  
Music composition and guitar: José Luis de La Paz  
Percussion: Adolfo Herrera, Flutes: Lester Paredes  
Mix and mastering: Vlademir Quintero

### VII. Hogar (Home)

La Fiesta - La Tania, Jose Luis de la Paz, José Cortés, Gary Haggerty  
Amalgama - Instrumental, José Luis de la Paz & Gary Haggerty  
Tientos - Melissa Cruz (choreography by Melissa Cruz)  
Siguiriyas - Cristina Hall (choreography by Cristina Hall)  
Alegrias - Mizuho Sato (choreography by Mizuho Sato)  
Solea - La Tania (choreography by La Tania)  
Tangos - La Tania, Mizuho Sato, Cristina Hall, Melissa Cruz

### VIII. Solaz (Solace)

Dance and Choreography: La Tania  
Music composition and guitar: Jose Luis de la Paz  
Voice: Raquel Heredia, Poem by Adrian Arias and La Tania





photo by R.J. Muna

**La Tania**  
**Artistic Director, Choreographer, Dancer**

La Tania has spent more than four decades setting the international standard as an innovator and icon of traditional and contemporary flamenco. Her work has earned her top honors and recognition including prestigious Choreographers Fellowships from both the California Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts, the Isadora Duncan Dance Award for Artistic Excellence, the Arts Achievement Award for Contemporary Dance from San Francisco Focus, as well as many grants from agencies and foundations including The National Endowment for the Arts, Meet the Composer, James Irvine Foundation, John Simon Guggenheim Foundation, and others. La Tania began her professional career at age 17 dancing and touring with multiple companies in Spain, and soon danced as a soloist in the major Tablaos of Madrid, such as Canasteros, La Venta del Gato and the prestigious Corral de la Moreria where she performed for many years, eventually becoming its star dancer, followed by touring as a soloist with some of Spain's most renowned Flamenco companies. Traveling with Paco Peña, Mario Maya, Los Flamenco Somos Así and others, La Tania danced throughout Europe, North Africa, Japan, and Mexico. In 1991, La Tania started her own company in Madrid and toured extensively, including performing in 1993 in California where she decided to relocate.  
[www.lataniaflamenco.com](http://www.lataniaflamenco.com)

**Adrián Arias**  
**Artistic Director, Visual and Video Artist, Graphic Designer**

Adrián Arias is an international multidisciplinary artist working at the intersection of visual arts, poetry, performance, and social justice. A descendant of the Mochica culture of ancient Peru, he embraces his culture's use of dreams as a transformative catalyst between reality and imagination. Adrian has participated in international individual and collective exhibitions and performances in France, Spain, Italy, Macedonia, Poland, Canada, Chile, Argentina, Brazil, Dominican Republic, Japan, Peru, and the US. Arias has created large-scale murals for public and private businesses such as Google and the Luggage Store and Magic Theatre. As co-founder of Mission Arts Performance Project MAPP, he conceptualizes and creates multi-sensory art experiences such as the ILLUSION show at the de Young Museum and other venues. Since 1999, Adrian has worked in big scale Altar installations for Day of the Dead exhibitions at San Francisco Symphony, Oakland Museum, MCCLA, and SOMARTS. Since late 80's he is considered a pioneer of video art and multimedia shows in Peru, his country of origin. His *Tarot in Pandemic & Revolution*, is a collaboration with sixty two visual artists and poets in the creation of a community tarot deck that speaks to historic events that transpired over the pandemic, published by Nomadic Press.  
[www.adrianarias.com](http://www.adrianarias.com)



photo by Christine Fu

**Melissa Cruz**

Melissa Cruz is a Bay Area-based flamenco artist who has been performing and teaching for the past 15 years. She began training with the Bay Area's acclaimed flamenco master Rosa Montoya and soon thereafter, joined Ms. Montoya's professional company. Melissa has performed as a soloist in the SF International Arts Festival and has danced in eight SF Ethnic Dance Festivals, twice as a featured soloist. In 2013, she was commissioned to present a solo representing the genre of flamenco for the SF Isadora Duncan Awards Ceremony. She currently continues as principal dancer and choreographer for the San Francisco Flamenco Dance Company and has collaborated with Flamenco Fever, Oleaje Flamenco, Quiero Flamenco, Arte y Pasión, Ballet Flamenco La Rosa, Tucson Flamenco Festival, St. Louis Flamenco Society, Flamenco Pacifico, Theatre Flamenco of San Francisco, and Caminos Flamencos. Recently, she was Artistic Director of "The Flamenco Room," San Francisco's longest running cabaret flamenco show.  
[www.melissacruz.weebly.com](http://www.melissacruz.weebly.com)



photo by Alain Scherer

**Cristina Teresa Hall**

Cristina Teresa Hall is a flamenco dance artist with an unusual technique and vision. She shapes her art with respect for all genres, with a unique international lens. She has worked with artists such as Israel Galván, Andrés Marín, Eduardo Guerrero, Manuela Ríos, and French choreographer, Yann Lheureux, among others. She has participated in important festivals such as La Bienal de Flamenco de Sevilla, El Festival de Jerez, The Flamenco Festival of Dusseldorf and the Flamenco Festival of Madrid among others. She performs regularly in different tablaos throughout Seville, Spain and internationally. She has been producing her own creations and choreographies since 2007. Some of her creations include The Sound of Silence, Translucido, Constelación Sonora, Animals, Tripolar, Simbiosis, Himnos a la Noche among others. Along with her live performances, Hall tours regularly throughout Europe, the United States, Mexico, amongst other countries, combining it with her pedagogical work.  
[www.cristinahallflamenco.com](http://www.cristinahallflamenco.com)

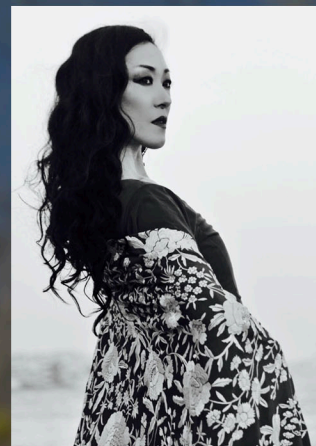


photo by Antonio Murray

**Mizuho Sato**

Mizuho Sato was born in Iwate, Japan. She started classical ballet at the age of 3 and shifted her career to flamenco at the age of 18. When she was 20, she received awards from the Japanese Flamenco Association and the Ambassador of Spain. In 2003 she moved to Los Angeles and since has been featured in many projects such as the LA flamenco documentary Kumpania, Houston Flamenco Festival, Forever Flamenco at The Ford Theatre, and LA Opera's Carmen. Mizuho's style evolves continuously with much respect to her 35+ teachers who she has learned from. Currently, she lives in San Francisco and in 2021 debuted her own company Mizuho Sato Flamenco Company with a show called "¡FLAMENKING!" to spread the power of healing "flamencura" and to embrace the multicultural Bay Area flamenco scene. She continues to thrive as a cross-cultural dancer and is mixing experimental flamenco with contemporary and hip-hop movement.  
[www.mizuhosatoflamenco.com](http://www.mizuhosatoflamenco.com)

## Musicians



### **Jose Luis de la Paz** Music Director, Composer, Guitarist

Jose Luis de la Paz is an award-winning guitarist, recognized in all three disciplines of the Flamenco art. He is a composer, virtuoso, and performer whose original compositions range from the most traditional to the most experimental forms in flamenco music. He became the prized pupil of the legendary Mario Escudero at the age of 15. The unique versatility of Jose Luis de la Paz allows him to accompany singers and dancers, as well as write songs and solo work. He has collaborated with world renowned artists such as Cristina Hoyos, Siudy, Garrido, Jose Merce, Concha Buika, Belen Maya, Farruquito, Antonio Canales, La Des Moines Symphony Orchestra, and the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra. Jose Luis' commitment to his practice, his profound knowledge of the tradition and the roots combined with his desire for research and experimentation, and his contemporary approach to flamenco music, makes him one of the best guitarists in the world.  
[www.joseluisdelapaz.com](http://www.joseluisdelapaz.com)



photo by .Su Tang

### **Gary Haggerty** Oud Player

Gary Haggerty is an incredibly talented multi-instrumentalist, playing a wide range of string instruments from various traditions. In addition to the violin and viola, he plays a variety of lutes including the oud, laouto, mandocello, tarhu, and saz. He plays with the world music ensembles Teslim and Stellamara, we well as several other Bay Area groups such as Janam and The Helladelics. He has studied with oud master Naseer Shamma and has studied, recorded, and performed with Ross Daly and Kelly Thoma. He has toured with the Mevlevi Dervish (Sufi) Order of America and continues to participate in Turkish ceremonial and devotional gatherings around the country. In addition to being a composer and performer, Gary is a talented luthier, repairing stringed instruments of every variety; coaxing sound from sazes, violins, rebabs, restoring lutes and lyras, making bows and finding ingenious ways to allow the true voice of an instrument to come forth.



### **Faisal Zedan** Derbakkah Player

Faisal Zedan is an Arabic percussionist and drummer who was born in Lebanon and raised in Syria. He grew up impassioned with the darbakkah (Arabic drum) and at the age of 15, after intensive study with a local drummer, Faisal became exposed to a wide repertoire of Arabic classical and contemporary music, playing on darbakkah, riqq, and frame drums from Arabic and Middle Eastern music genres. Upon arrival in California in 1991, he joined the acclaimed UCLA Near East Music Ensemble directed by Dr. Ali Jihad Racy. Faisal is affiliated with several groups including Kan Zaman, Qadim, Stellamara, and Aswat Ensemble. In addition to his collaborations with local and international artists, Faisal has taught at music camps, conducted workshops around the world, and has produced instructional DVDs on darbakkah fundamentals and Arabic percussion. He currently teaches Arabic drumming traditions focused in Syria and Egypt.  
[www.faisalzedan.com](http://www.faisalzedan.com)



### **Jose Cortes** Singer

Jose Cortes is part of an important gypsy family from Almería. At the age of ten, José began his career in Jerez de la Frontera where he won the "Premio del Joven Aficionado del Cante Flamenco," accompanied on guitar by Terremoto Hijo. He was immersed in the world of flamenco with the great artists, such as Terremoto, Pansequito, Camarón de la Isla, Moraíto Chico, and Tomatito. In his formative years, José was deeply influenced by the legendary flamenco singer Camaron de la Isla, who also mentored him. José has shared the stage with flamenco artists such as Alfonso Losa, Belén Lopez, Carmen Ledesma, Sergio Arranda, Juan Carmona, Nino de los Reyes, and Antonio Carmona. He is a frequent guest artist with Jesús Muñoz Flamenco and has sung for Israel Galván, Angelita Gómez, and Javier Latorre. In 2010, he moved to the United States and has worked with many local artists and organizations, including singing for the San Francisco Opera in Giselle. José has shared the stage with great artists during many live performances and TV specials including the Gipsy Kings, James Brown, Jennifer Lopez, Bruce Willis, Eva Longoria, and Tony Parker.



## Lighting Designer



photo by Terry Lorant

### **Patty Ann Farrell**

#### **Lighting Designer**

Patty Ann Farrell has been a Lighting Designer throughout the Bay Area for over four decades. She has deeply impacted the local performing arts field, serving in the roles as production manager, stage manager, and lighting designer for many dance, theatrical works, and special events throughout the San Francisco Bay Area, New York City, Washington D.C., Tokyo, Hawaii, and up and down the West Coast of the United States. She has created lighting designs for literally thousands of events, including hundreds of San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival performances, as well as performances by the Oakland Ballet, Alonzo King's LINES Ballet, the Black Choreographers' Festival, Nā Lei Hulu I Ka Wēkiu's annual Hula Show, Ballet Afsaneh, and many, many more. Patty Ann has received many awards for her work, including four prestigious Isadora Duncan Dance Awards and a Bay Area Critic's Circle Award.

### **Solaz Artistic Team**

Artistic Direction: La Tania & Adrian Arias

Choreography: La Tania

Visual Designer: Adrian Arias

Lighting Designer: Patty Ann Farrell

Music Composer: Jose Luis de la Paz

Dancers: Cristina Hall, La Tania,

Melissa Cruz, Mizuho Sato

Guitarist: Jose Luis de la Paz

Voice: Jose Cortes

Oud: Gary Haggerty

Percussionist: Faisal Zedan

Costume Designer: Adrian Arias

Costume Makers: Jose Tarrino

and Mizuho Sato

### **Production Team**

Production Manager: Patty Ann Farrell

Managing Director: Julie Mushet

IATSE House Steward and

Technical Director: Chris Kenney

Sound Engineer: Ben Krames

Projectionists: Marty McGee and Dustin Schultz

Backstage Manager: Dudley Flores

Production Assistant: Olivia Youssef

Dancer photos on pages 2-3, 4-5, 9,

and 10-11 by Kegan Marling

### **Presidio Theatre Staff**

Executive Director: Bob Martin

Director of Development, Communications

and Sales: Matthew Keefe

Director of Operations and Community

Relations: Jen Tait

Production Manager: Patty Ann Farrell

Assistant Production Manager: Alessandra Waste

Marketing and Programs Manager: Max Gustafson

House Electrician: Drea Stratton

House Audio Engineer: Ben Krames

Box Office Manager: Jono Clay

Box Office: Max Abrahams, Emmy Diep, Michael Jeung

Lead Event Managers: Lucie Faulknor, Liz Murray

Event Managers: Sue Bell, Malika Briki, Maya Daniels,

Michelle King, George Koster, Kelly Lee,

Gwyn Leong-FitzSimmons, Mary Riley

Events Assistant and Volunteer Coordinator: Katie Roy

Concessions: Diane Theodorelos, Cow Hollow Catering

Janitorial: Ali Rowaid, R and A Janitorial

Interim Technical Director and IATSE Union

Shop Steward: Chris Kenney

Media Relations: Scott Horton

Thank you to the multitude of people who donated their suitcases, with whom they have traveled the world, helping Adrian to create the sculpture "The Temple of Suitcases."

Special thanks to Nora Goodfriend and Edwin Reaño.



Haiku (by Adrian Arias & La Tania)  
Cuerpo que baila (Body that dances)  
Contando la historia (Telling the story)  
Mi casa esta alli (My home is there)

"Temple of Debod", Madrid / photo by Jiuquang Wang



Adrián and "Temple of Suitcases" / photo by La Tania

This project was funded by the Creative Work Fund, a program of the Walter & Elise Haas Fund supported by a generous grant from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, and the Kenneth Rainin Foundation.

A special thanks to Bob Martin for believing in this project and to Peggy Haas for making it all possible.

Also thanks to Mina Girgis and The Nile Project: <http://nileproject.org>