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Contact Jasmine Rios at 619.851.3920

PST

AUGUST DANCE AWARENESS MONTH EVENT

"Sweet Charity" and Bravo TV's Nick Drago At the JCC Tonight

SAN DIEGO, CA (August 21, 2008) -- Tonight Dance San Diego Magazine and Mina Communications are presenting a special evening of dance "On Screen & Off." Local artists of the San Diego dance community will perform a one hour pre-show before the special screening of the classic film, "Sweet Charity" starring Shirley MacLaine.

Local dance artists scheduled to perform include:

- Larisa Hall of Tap Fever performing "Ring The Alarm," "Leaving On A Jet Plane," and "Shim Sham Shimmy"
- Anthony Rodriguez of Eveoke Dance Theatre will perform "Bamboo Banga" with music by M.I.A.
- Adrianna Aguilar and Brian Heil of the San Diego Academy of Ballet will perform a pas de deux and two variations from "La Bayadere." Music by Ludwig Minkus.

Also featured tonight is celebrity guest artist Nick Drago of Bravo TV's "Step It Up & Dance." Drago will be addressing the August Dance Awareness Month initiative and will return to San Diego at a later date to teach a Master Class in Hip Hop at Culture Shock Dance Studio.

Nick Drago is a native of Houston, Texas and graduate of Oklahoma City University who now lives in Los Angeles as a professional dancer and actor. He has studied at the Edge Performing Arts Center for a number of years and has trained relentlessly with many other credited teachers and choreographers from both coasts. His earlier credits include the WNBA Houston Comets Dance Team NRG, and on Houston's regional stages, Nick has performed lead roles in "Guys and Dolls," "Oklahoma," and "The Music Man." On the ballet stage, Drago has also danced for over eighteen years as a senior company member with the Houston Dance Theatre in its annual performance of "The Nutcracker." Houston audiences have also seen him perform the lead in such productions as "Coppelia," "Cinderella," and "Gaité Parisienne."

Drago has appeared in music videos including: Jessica Simpson's "Boots," My Chemical Romance's "Helena," and most recently Finger Eleven's "Paralyze." Some of Drago's television credits include "Scrubs," "The Hollow Men," "Viva Laughlin," and "The Oprah Winfrey Show." He has appeared in "Zombie Prom" the movie, "Alvin & The Chipmunks" (as Theodore's Dance Double), and various other spots on The History Channel, Comedy Central, VH1, The Idea Network, and NBC. In addition to his film and television work, Drago has appeared with Adam Parson's Commonality Dance Company and more recently has performed for national and international audiences in Jeff Amsden's "A Few Good Men Dancin'." His interest in health and nutrition has given him the opportunity to model for Men's Fitness Magazine and XM Radio. Drago can also be seen in Jillian Michael's (The Biggest Loser) Fitness and

Training videos. Commercially, Drago has worked with Exxon gasoline, Jagermeister, MBNA, San Miguel beer, Harley Davidson, Liberty Mutual, and with music and film stars, Ru Paul, Brittany Murphy, Mariah Carey, and the UK music sensation, Jem. In addition, he has performed as part of the opening act for pop star, Aaron Carter. Excited to continue his career in film and television, Drago enjoys teaching and choreographing with **FLOW 40 DANCE WORKSHOPS** around the nation.

TONIGHTS EVENTS

--Performances by the local dance community and lecture by Nick Drago are scheduled from 6pm to 7pm. The film presentation of "Sweet Charity" will begin at 7pm. The Garfield Theatre @ the Lawrence Family JCC, 4126 Executive Drive, La Jolla, CA 92037. Cost per person \$12. Call 858.362.1348 or visit <http://sdcjc.lfjcc.org/facilities.php>.

TOMORROW'S EVENTS

-- The Celebrate Dance Festival, Balboa Park, SD (FREE). Fri. 8/22 6pm - 10pm, Sat. 8/23 12pm - 10pm, and Sun. 8/24 12pm - 9pm. www.eveoke.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

-- "More Dance On Screen & Off," Friday 8/29. A new lineup of local dance artists will perform from 6-7pm. An exclusive film presentation of "The Red Shoes" will begin at 7pm. The Garfield Theatre @ the Lawrence Family JCC, 4126 Executive Drive, La Jolla, CA 92037. Cost per person \$12. For tickets call 858.362.1348 or visit <http://sdcjc.lfjcc.org/facilities.php>.

-- Closing party @ Solare Ristorante & Lounge, Liberty Station, Point Loma, Sun. 8/31 (time TBA)

-- In-studio dance performances and FREE/Discounted dance classes throughout August. For more information, visit <http://www.minacommunications.com/www.danceawareness.com/id3.html>

To schedule an interview with Nick Drago, contact Jasmine Rios at 619.851.3920. He is available tonight through Friday, afternoon August 22, 2008.

FLOW 40 DANCE <http://www.flow40dance.com/contact-us/contact-us.html>

EVEOKE DANCE THEATRE 2811-A University Avenue, San Diego, CA 92104. 619.238.1153.
www.eveoke.org

SAN DIEGO ACADEMY OF BALLET 4696 Ruffner S., San Diego, CA 92111, 858.496.0800,
info@sdab.org, http://web.mac.com/m_black71/sdab/Home..html

TAP FEVER STUDIOS For the month of August, mention ADAM, and get your first class free. Specialty classes include 40's Tap Repertoire, Ballet Folklorico Tap, Broadway Musical Tap, Hip Hop Tap, Line Dancing w/Tap, Soft Shoe Tap for Seniors, and Tap on Pointe. -- 7301 Girard Ave., Ste. B, La Jolla 92037, 858.456.7301, www.tapfever.com, www.sdfirerescue.org

AUGUST DANCE AWARENESS MONTH

PARTNERS The Garfield Theatre, Solare Ristorante & Lounge, Eveoke Dance Theatre, and the San Diego Newspaper Group

DONORS The NTC Foundation, Liberty Station Hotels, Borders, Great-News!, US Karate Academy, Trader Joe's, MOPA, and XLNC1

SUPPORTER Dancer Magazine

Mina Communications is a private consulting business 4 the Arts. The company was founded in January 2007 by Jasmine Rios to facilitate advertising, public relations, and marketing communication service needs to independent artists and arts groups with limited resources. Rios is also a freelance writer for the national publication Dancer Magazine and writes the "Fundraising 4 the Arts" column and other feature articles for Dance San Diego Magazine.

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