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For Immediate Release

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**Santa Barbara Dance Alliance Announces
Master Class with Batsheva Dance Company**

Summary Facts:

- Master class with Batsheva Dance Company, Israel's Premier Dance Company
- Monday, February 23, 2009 from 7:30 - 9:30 pm
- SB Ballet Center, 1019 B Chapala St, Santa Barbara, CA
- Tickets are \$18 for participants and \$15 for SBDA members
- Presented in collaboration with Santa Barbara Dance Alliance and UCSB Arts & Lectures.
- Tickets and information at www.sbdancealliance.org or call (805) 966-6950
- Editors note: **High Resolution 300dpi photos available under "Press Kits" on the SBDA website.**

Santa Barbara, CA – **Now is your chance to learn GAGA, the expressive and dynamic movement language used daily by dancers of the Batsheva Dance Company and Batsheva Ensemble as the basis for their distinctive technique.** The Santa Barbara Dance Alliance in collaboration with UCSB Arts & Lectures presents a public master class with a senior company member of the Batsheva Dance Company, at Santa Barbara Ballet Center, Monday, February 23, 2009 at 7:30 pm.

Batsheva Dance Company was founded in 1964 by Martha Graham and Baroness Batsheva De Rothschild. Since then, Batsheva has become one of the leading international dance companies. Led by Artistic Director Ohad Naharin, together with House Choreographer Sharon Eyal, the company's 65 members – dancers, technical crew and administration are driven by a common vision - to excel in art and to strengthen common human values through the power of creativity. As *The New York Times* describes, "Mr. Naharin's movement vocabulary involves the extreme engagement of the entire body... along with an equally extreme clarity. Without losing momentum or verve every movement looks caught in a freeze frame." This master class is a unique opportunity for the dance community to study first hand with a modern master of dance. This master class is not open to observers and all attendees must participate. But don't let that scare you away! GAGA, Batsheva's own technique, is an un-stylized, free-form movement that explores movement possibilities within the human body – everyone from beginners to experienced movement practitioners will benefit from expressing themselves through the GAGA technique, learning something about themselves in the process.

This master class is the second in the season's program of classes led by visiting artists from international touring companies. This past fall, dancers were invited to participate in a **Lar Lubovitch** modern class, and additional master classes are scheduled for spring with **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater** and **Ballet Preljocaj**. Don't miss master classes with **Aszure Barton**, who is doing a residency at the Lobero with DANCEworks, on

- Saturday, February 14, 10:30 am-noon.
- Sunday, February 12, 10:00-11:30 am
- Friday, February 20, 6:15-7:45 pm
- Wednesday, February 25. 6:15-7:45 pm

Classes will be held on stage! Aszure Barton is spending the month of February with her company in a unique residency at the Lobero with performances March 6 & 7 of a new work created on the stage during the month.

Alvin Ailey Dance Theatre will teach a master class in modern dance technique, again in collaboration with Santa Barbara Dance Alliance and UCSB Arts & Lectures on Monday March 9 at Santa Barbara Dance Arts 1 N. Cesar Chavez from 7:30-9:30. Class is limited to high intermediate and advanced dancers. Observers are welcome. Limited space is available.

Tickets for master classes are \$18 for dancers. Become a SBDA member and tickets are only \$15 for dancers! Observers are welcome to **Aszure Barton** and **Alvin Ailey's** classes at \$8 and \$5 for members. Buy your tickets and become a member by calling SBDA at (805) 966-6950 or buy on-line at www.sbdancealliance.org.

Take a class, and then see the show! Batsheva Dance Company will perform at 8pm on Tuesday, February 24, 2009 at the Arlington Theatre. Tickets are \$38 to \$48 for the general public and \$23 for UCSB students. Call (805) 893-3535 for tickets.

The Santa Barbara Dance Alliance is a unique service organization focused on promoting dance and dance education in Santa Barbara County. In addition to master classes, SBDA presents year round performances, community events including the DaM Festival (Multicultural Dance and Music), NEW WORKS: Santa Barbara Choreographers at Center Stage in January, BASSH: Ballroom, Argentine Tango, Swing, Salsa & Hip Hop at the Lobero in March, and scholarships for local, talented, dedicated young artists in need of financial support. For more information on Santa Barbara Dance Alliance or to purchase tickets, call (805) 966-6950 or on line at www.sbdancealliance.org.

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