

NEWS



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LIKHA PILIPINO FOLK ENSEMBLE IN SUNNYVALE APRIL 24

Diversity of island nation showcased in music and dance

SUNNYVALE, Calif. – Sunnyvale Theatre’s Evenings of Cultural Arts celebrates the cultural heritage of one of the City’s largest immigrant communities, Filipinos, with a performance by Likha Pilipino Folk Ensemble at its season finale Saturday, April 14, at 8 p.m.

Likha Pilipino Folk Ensemble is celebrating its 20th season preserving and promoting the unique Pilipino dances, music, costumes and customs. More than 7,000 tropical islands comprise the Philippines, where Eastern, Western and indigenous tribal traditions converge to create one of the most culturally-rich climates on the planet. The San Francisco-based group is dedicated to giving Filipino-Americans a touchstone to their heritage and sharing their culture with the community at large.

The performance in Sunnyvale will include traditional dances and music from throughout the island nation’s history. Native dances range from a Kalinga tribal

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wedding dance, where the bride balances a stack of clay pots on her head, to the very recognizable and always popular *tinikling*, where dancers step lively between two bamboo poles – which are banged against the ground and each other – to create a percussive music.

Colonial Spanish influence is heard in the music of the *Rondalla*, a string ensemble that includes Filipino instruments: the bandurria and octavina, alongside the more universal guitar and bass. Philippine Rondallas perform traditional Kundiman love serenades and Balitaw romantic duets, as well as waltzes and other group dances.

Likha's musicians also perform on indigenous percussion instruments, drums and a variety of gongs, including the small handheld, single-note *gansa*, the *kulintang*, a horizontal row of graduated gongs, and the *tangungo*, a frame with hanging gongs.

Likha, which means “creation,” was founded in 1992 by Rudolfo “Rudi” Soriano, a former soloist with the famed Bayanihan Philippine National Folk Dance Company and an award-winning choreographer whose honors include the World Arts West Outstanding Choreographer Award in 2007.

The intimate Sunnyvale Theatre is located at the Community Center, 550 E. Remington Drive, between El Camino Real and Sunnyvale-Saratoga Road. General admission tickets are \$28. Discount tickets for students and seniors are \$22. Single subscriptions start at \$80. All Evenings of Cultural Arts programs are Saturdays at 8 p.m. Group discounts are available. For tickets, please phone the Sunnyvale Theatre Box Office at (408) 733-6611. The Box Office is open Monday – Friday, 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m., and two hours prior to shows. For additional information, call the Sunnyvale Theatre Administrative Office at (408) 730-7725, TDD (408) 730-7501, or visit *Arts.inSunnyvale.com* on the Web.

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