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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Social Dance Cultures and Tamalpais District Community Education co-present

Tango: A Romantic Ritual

Conceived and directed by Debbie Goodwin

Valentine's Day weekend
February 14 @ 8pm and February 15 @ 2pm

Drake Little Theater, San Anselmo

Full calendar listing at the end of the release

(January 26, 2009 – San Francisco, CA) Argentine Tango, that dynamic and evocative style of dance that brings couples together in perfect unison, is infused with an unspoken code of conduct. Tango's silent language is layered with authentic customs and courtesies from Buenos Aires that add depth and surprises to this dramatic art form. Known for its smoldering mood, tango's precise footwork and deep, emotional bends have captured the world's imagination and given rise to a global subculture. Argentine Tango is found in every major city around the world. Enthusiasts from Montreal, the Bay Area, Zurich, Seattle, Amsterdam and Tokyo (to name a few) emulate not only the dance, but also the customs, dress, code of behavior and language of Buenos Aires's tango culture.

Social Dance Cultures' Debbie Goodwin - an accomplished tango dancer/choreographer, teacher and historian living in Marin - immersed herself in Argentine Tango culture for the past 13 years. "**Tango: A Romantic Ritual**" is rooted in her ethnological research of tango communities, the topic of her Master's thesis in Dance from CSU Sacramento.

Under Goodwin's direction, six dynamic couples will take the stage on Valentine's Day weekend accompanied by **Seth Asarnow** (bandoneón), **Marcelo Puig** (guitar) and **Terence Clarke** (narrator). The featured dancers in "Tango: A Romantic Ritual" are:

- **Debbie Goodwin** and **John Campbell**
- **Pier Voulkos** and **Daniel Peters**
- **Christy Coté** and **Darren Lees**
- **Chelsea Eng** and **Count Glover**
- **Carolina Rozensztroch** and **Humberto Décima**
- **Mariana Ancarola** and **David Orly-Thompson**

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These professional Bay Area-based dancers and musicians are tango connoisseurs who possess captivating individual styles. In “Tango: A Romantic Ritual” some will present choreographed work; others will improvise their piece. Each discrete love affair played out onstage will culminate into a lively evening of entertainment.

Goodwin remarks, *“This is a tango performance conceived to take you beyond entertainment and to inspire you to dance. I, along with the dedicated cast, intend to share with our audience the enriching experience tango plays in forming community, heartfelt connections and artistic expression. Rather than a glitzy stage show, the first half of the performance gives the audience a glimpse of what real social style Argentine Tango is like. The audience will be able relate to the dance and think, ‘this is something I can do.’ The second half of the program features the six members of the all-female company Tango Con*Fusion with their male partners. Each couple portrays their own unique character and style. My hope is that our audience will be touched in a way that causes them to take the next step, and to learn the silent language of tango.”*

“Tango: A Romantic Ritual” will be performed on Valentine’s Day weekend (Saturday, February 14 at 8pm, and Sunday, February 15 at 2pm) in San Anselmo at the Little Drake Theater. This program is sponsored by Social Dance Cultures and Tamalpais District Community Education and made possible, in part, by a grant from the Marin Arts Council Fund for Artists.

ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION: Social Dance Cultures is a non-profit 501(c3) organization dedicated to encouraging and supporting dance as a means of developing community. The organization currently chooses to focus on endeavors related specifically to Argentine Tango. Social Dance Cultures is the umbrella organization for several worthy organizations. The theater production "Tango, a Romantic Ritual" serves to educate and capture the imagination.

Social Dance Cultures’ [Tango Con*Fusión Dance Company](#) is an all-women dance company that bends the gender-related customs of this century-old dance. As collaborative artists they explore the idiom of Argentine Tango beyond its traditional boundaries. As professional performers and teachers of Argentine Tango, with varied backgrounds in contemporary and classical dance, they create a fusion of genres within their choreography. A couple’s dance morphs to a solo or collective interaction, leaders and followers exchange roles, and free movement is added.

In “Tango, A Romantic Ritual” the women of *Tango Con*Fusión* portray their skill and love of traditional Argentine Tango with their male partners.

Social Dance Culture’s educational outreach program – **Alma Del Tango** brings dance classes to the community primarily through the adult education programs of the Tamalpais School District in Marin County. *TangoCalifia* supports scholarships for dance education and free public social dances in San Francisco. Alma Video Productions engages in documenting dance productions that would otherwise disappear with the fading sounds of the last note of music. Further, the organization assists other artists in their dance-related film or video projects by providing equipment and technical assistance.

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CALENDAR LISTING

High-res jpegs can be downloaded from socialdancecultures.org

WHAT: **Tango: A Romantic Ritual**
Conceived and directed by Debbie Goodwin
Six dynamic couples perform the tango.

WHO: **Social Dance Cultures**
Performances by Debbie Goodwin & John Campbell;
Pier Voulkos & Daniel Peters;
Christy Coté & Darren Lees;
Chelsea Eng & Count Glover;
Carolina Rozensztroch & Humberto Décima; and
Mariana Ancarola & David Orly-Thompson.

WHEN: Saturday, February 14 @ 8:00pm
Sunday, February 15 @ 2:00pm

WHERE: Drake Little Theater
(1327 Sir Francis Drake Blvd, San Anselmo)

TICKETS: \$25 advance; \$30 at the door

BOX OFFICE: 800-838-3006 and socialdancecultures.org

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