

UCSD presents dances of the Middle East with the "AVAZ International Dance Theatre" on Nov. 6

October 28, 1994

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UCSD PRESENTS DANCES OF THE MIDDLE EAST WITH THE "AVAZ INTERNATIONAL DANCE THEATRE"

The AVAZ International Dance Theatre, an ensemble of 14 dancers, eight singers and nine musicians, will present a program of traditional music and dance from the Middle East, Greece, Central Asia and North Africa, at 8 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 6, in the Mandeville Auditorium at the University of California, San Diego.

Tickets for the event are \$16 general admission, and \$12 for students. They may be purchased at the UCSD Price Center Box Office or from TicketMaster outlets.

The AVAZ International Dance Theatre presents ethnic music, songs and dances in costumes that represent the country of origin.

Members of the ensemble are principal dancer Ixchel Dimetral-Maerker, who specializes in Middle Eastern dance and music, the corps de ballet, the Zena Women's Chorus, and folk musicians.

Choreographer Anthony Shay, the company's artistic director, was co-founder of the Aman Folk ensemble before forming AVAZ in 1977. He has choreographed works for a Duquesne University folk ensemble, "Tamburitzans," and played flute for the Tehran Symphony. He holds masters degrees in Anthropology, Folklore and Mythology, and is the recipient of two choreographic grants from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).

AVAZ is a part of the California Arts Council Touring Company and receives support from various state and local funding agencies, including the Los Angeles County Commission for Music and the Performing Arts.

AVAZ is brought to UCSD by the University Events Office. For more information, please call 534-4090.

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