

# PRESS RELEASE

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## Pilipino dance troupe honors dying cultural traditions in upcoming 25th-anniversary celebration at the Palace of Fine Arts in San Francisco

**[San Francisco, California]-** The LIKHA-Pilipino Folk Ensemble ([likha.org](http://likha.org)) is putting on a spectacular display of ancient dances from the 7,000 island archipelago on **September 24 and 25th, 2017** at the Palace of Fine Arts in San Francisco.

The show, named Karangalan, is the Pilipino word “honor.” LIKHA is hoping to fly in renowned performers and cultural bearers from the Philippines to dance on stage, but tourist visas could be in question due to the turbulent environment in the south Philippines, and tensions in the United States. LIKHA hopes visas are granted in time for these masters of music, art and dance to perform in San Francisco. Even if these performers can’t make it to the U.S., LIKHA will still honor their life’s work on stage.

Some of the performers LIKHA hopes to bring to San Francisco have helped shape the arts landscape in the Philippines. They include Kalinga educator Cirilo Bawer, Ethno-choreologist Earl C. Pasilan of the Yakan, National artist of the Philippines Ramon Obusan and many others. In their honor, LIKHA is performing signature pieces from their repertoire.

Dances include the Banga dance, where women balance several pots on their heads, to the Semba dance, which seeks permission from local spirits to approve a dwelling or to get guidance in fishing and planting.

“We are no one without our culture and traditions,” said Rudi C. Soriano, who founded LIKHA in 1992. The dance ensemble has 19 productions under its belt, plus several international tours and nine appearances at the acclaimed San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival.

Tickets to the 25th anniversary performance can be bought through [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com).

### **About The LIKHA-Pilipino Folk Ensemble:**

The LIKHA-Pilipino Folk Ensemble was founded by Rudi Soriano, a former dance soloist with the Bayanihan Philippine Dance Company. The ensemble celebrates the power of dance and music as well as the beauty of the Philippine culture. Soriano has grown LIKHA, which means “creation” in Tagalog, into a full-blown arts organization with workshops, programs, collection and curation, and performances, which

seeks to preserve the music, literature, dance, arts, crafts, instruments, and native dress of the Philippines.

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