

Press Release

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Ethiopian-Israeli Dance Troupe Debuts in San Francisco
Performance to Benefit Inner-City Youth Program

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (9/23/10) — An Ethiopian-Israeli dance troupe will make its San Francisco debut on October 14, 2010, in a benefit performance for San Francisco Students Back on Track, a cross-cultural after-school tutoring and mentoring program for underserved youth in the city.

The Beta Dance Troupe, which performs a contemporary synthesis of Ethiopian tribal and Jewish cultural dance steps, will perform at the Buriel Clay Theater at the African American Art and Culture Complex at 746 Fulton Street in San Francisco. The dance performance will be preceded by a catered reception and dialogue about ethnic and cultural Diasporas.

“Everyone is excited about the upcoming dance performance, which will blend African rhythms, Ethiopian styles, and Jewish ritual sensibilities,” said Perry Lang, a Back on Track board member and the Interim Executive Director of the program. “Most importantly, our children will benefit from the continued collaborations of our communities.”

Tickets may be purchased for a portion of or the entire event. The reception and Diaspora dialogue will be held at 5:30 p.m. in the Hall of Culture, with the dance performance beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Advance tickets for the performance are \$35; advance tickets for the reception and dialogue are \$40; advance tickets for the full event are \$75. All proceeds will directly benefit Back on Track, and ticket purchases are tax deductible.

To purchase tickets for the event, visit www.brownpapertickets.com/event/130282. You may also purchase tickets by contacting Back on Track directly at 415.346.9316 or e-mailing backontrackfundraiser@yahoo.com.

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The Beta Dance Troupe, based in Haifa, Israel, presents a unique program of traditional Ethiopian and contemporary dance based on the culture of Ethiopian Jewry. Until the turn of 21st century, little was know of Ethiopian Jews, although the community has existed for hundreds of years. Most Ethiopian Jews resided in the area of Gondar in northern Ethiopia. The region was home of the Amhara nationality, known for its shoulder dances, called eskesta. For more information about the dancers, visit www.beta-eskesta.com.

San Francisco Students Back on Track was founded in 1988 in collaboration with Third Baptist Church, San Francisco's oldest African American Baptist Church, and Temple Emanu-El, San Francisco's oldest Jewish congregation. As a free one-on-one tutoring and academic mentorship program for K-12 students, Back on Track fosters partnerships between students and mentors from diverse ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds so they can learn together and promote cross-cultural understanding. Back on Track also provides students with a variety of enrichment activities and field trips. For more information about Back on Track, visit www.backontracksf.org.

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