

Enrico Labayen, (Artistic Director/Choreographer):

Began his dance career at age 13 in the Philippines before moving to the US , where he studied on full scholarship at the American Ballet Theater School, Ailey's American Dance Center, Joffrey American Ballet Center, NYCB's School of American Ballet and Harkness Ballet.

He performed a wide range of works from Lucas Hoving, Jose Limon, Rudy Perez, David Parsons and Joanna Haigood, to Petipa and George Balanchine. Labayen has worked with many ballet and modern dance companies, including American Ballet Theater II, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Larry Richardson Dance Company, Rod Rodgers Dance Company, Saeko Ichinohe Dance Company, Garden State Ballet, Hartford Ballet, Eglevsky Ballet and Alonzo King's LINES Ballet.

A skilled ballet master, Labayen's teaching experience includes Sacramento Ballet (USA), Bern Ballet (Switzerland), Mainz Stadt Theatre (Germany), Singapore Dance Theatre, Ballet Philippines, Philippine Ballet Theatre, Hofstra University (USA), San Francisco Institute of Choreography (USA), SF High School of Performing Arts (USA) LINES Ballet School (SF), Westlake School of Performing Arts (Daly City) and San Francisco Dance Center (USA) and ODC in San Francisco. Most recently, he has been invited as guest ballet master for Norwegian National Company for Contemporary Dance and Icelandic Ballet in Bergen, Norway and Salzburg Experimental Academy of Dance in Austria.

Mr. Labayen has received awards, fellowships & citations from the Beaux Arts Society of New York as "Dancer of the Year"; The Dutch Ministry of Cultural Exchange Fellowship Award, the Asian Institute for Liturgy and Music Residency Fellowship, the "Choreographer of the Year" award by the Manila Chronicle (Philippines); The Isadora Duncan Award for "Outstanding Achievement in Choreography" (1996, USA); the Filipinas Achievement Award (USA) – "His achievement in creating an extensive body of work that has enriched the lives of those who witnessed it, gathering critical and popular acclaim for artistic and cultural endeavors and symbolizing both the accomplishments of Filipino individuals and arts organizations and the challenge of increasing opportunities for minorities in the future." ; The City of Manila's Pillar of Art and Culture for Dance; an ABS-CBN International; Cultural Caregiving Travel Grant to Australia; Guest lecturer at University of New South Wales, Sydney; Residency at Djerassi Artists Residency (US), Rimbun Dahan Artist Residency (Malaysia). He has been named one of the Filipino American Faces of the Century – "...one of the Filipino Americans whose lives celebrate all that the Filipino American is capable of and have truly shaped our history in the United States and given the Filipino Americans and its community the inspiration to realize their dreams".

Having organized Labayen Dance/SF in 1994, he received an Arts International grant in 2000 enabling the company's multi-city tour of Germany which included Bonn, Stuttgart, Bielefeld and was the first American company invited to participate in Potsdam for the International Tanz with Objects Festival after the fall of the Berlin Wall and in Amman, Jordan for the International Theatre Festival. He is a recipient of the SF Arts Commission, Grants for the Arts, California Arts Council, The Zellerbach Foundation.