

What Critics Say:

“Rarely does a choreographer of contemporary dance manage to combine gracefully the technical precision and elegance of classical ballet with the innovation of modern dance, Enrico Labayen succeeds at this task...hypnotic and mesmerizing, a refreshing vision of contemporary dance.”
- Dance Magazine

“The cohesiveness of this dance company is almost as sensory as it is visual. Watching the dancers, it's impossible not to feel their emotions. This, at its core, is true art.”
-Critical Dance

"Enrico Labayen & Labayen Dance/SF is back in full force, Labayen's choreography is a powerful and passionate celebration of female strength"- SF Bay Guardian

Choreography for narrative dance must be representational. Plot, characters and their relationships are important, but alone, insufficient. The movement itself must convey the story and the message. It has to mean something. Enrico Labayen gets this and he is able to translate it onto the stage. Labayen Dance/SF's new evening length production, "Carmina Burana: Revisited", is packed with choreographic motifs that speak of his narrative concept. They celebrate the complexity and vastness of the female being: power, strength, allure and just the tiniest bit of vulnerability.” –Dance Commentary

“ Labayen's work is not the touch and go celebration of moment favored by choreographers but an espousal of commitment. His work is gutsy, earthy and emotionally hungry. It's wonderful to see someone going so bravely against the pull of the times.” -SF Focus

“ showed Labayen at his most sophisticated, allowing the movement to be nuanced and textured while flowing organically from one choreographic idea to the next... the beauty was the high level of professionalism that Labayen's company brings to the stage, the material was well rehearsed and choreographically complex." - SAFEhouse for the Performing Arts

“...powerful, controversial and wildly innovative, Labayen brings works of resistance in substance and form.” - Daily Tribune, Philippines

“ Labayen's work cannot be described as modern dance, powerfully expressive...a new star.”
- General Anzeiger, Germany

“Labayen creates indelible images in dance that one cannot forget easily...sheer genius.”
- Arab Daily, Jordan

“a quintessential contemporary choreographer who creates works rarely seen elsewhere.” - SF Pride

"a landscape of impression, imagery and beauty...expressing ancient but still relevant beliefs and experience through dance" - Straits Times, Singapore

“Exquisite and evocative, complete and in a class by itself.” - Manila Bulletin

“Enrico Labayen succeeded in returning to his ancestral rootsâ|a meditation on technology and humanity: a post modern tribe.” - Asian Week, USA