



55 Washington Street, Suite 218
Brooklyn, NY 11201

TEL 718.625.0080
FAX 718.625.3294

bac@brooklynartscouncil.org
www.brooklynartscouncil.org

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PRESS CONTACT: Sara DeRose | 718.625.0080 | sderose@brooklynartscouncil.org

BROOKLYN ARTS COUNCIL (BAC) PRESENTS
DANCING THE DEAD: FOLK FEET TRADITIONAL DANCE SHOWCASE VI
THE FIRST IN A SERIES OF SPRING 2009 DAYS OF THE DEAD IN BROOKLYN EVENTS

WHAT: An afternoon of dance and music from around the world - featuring Grenadian, Dominican, Chinese Taoist traditions, and more.

WHEN/WHERE: **Sunday March 1, 2 - 5pm** at Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts at Brooklyn College (BCBC), Whitman Theater

BROOKLYN, NY (January 26, 2009) Brooklyn Arts Council's sixth annual *Folk Feet Traditional Dance Showcase*, themed *Dancing the Dead*, brings the various dances of death, mourning, and remembrance practiced in Brooklyn's immigrant communities to the Whitman Theater stage for a first-ever presentation in the same program. It is the first in a series of spring 2009 events for BAC Folk Arts' *Days of the Dead in Brooklyn: Diverse Traditions of Death, Mourning, and Remembrance*. The funeral traditions of certain Brooklyn immigrants incorporate dance and music in celebration of the deceased. Grenadian bongo (a dance performed at wakes) and Dominican palos (a drumming style), for example, can play a role in wakes. And in some cultures, sacred legends tell the story of gods such as the Hindu Ganesha and the Chinese Taoist Cheng Ur who defy death to become immortal. Featured artists include Dean Maitland, Euston James, Vongku Pak, Brooklyn Chinese Association Senior Folk Dance Group, Aeilushi Mistry, Ivan Dominguez, Erhan Yihildrin, and others.

BAC Folk Arts' *Days of the Dead in Brooklyn* features workshops, lectures, and performances, as well as ongoing archival research throughout 2008/2009, that explore various memorial traditions, including song, oratory, storytelling, and burial rituals practiced in the borough. **The year-long project features several upcoming FREE events this spring**, including an **all Caribbean symposium with performances at the Flatbush Branch Library on April 23** and a **conversation with local Brooklyn funeral home directors on May 20** in the Dweck Auditorium in the Brooklyn Public Library Central at Grand Army Plaza.

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