



**Show REVIEW Commentary (As seen 9/1/13)  
Mojalet Dance Collective:**



**California RHYTHM Project**



Per Steve Shirley

The **Mojalet Dance Collective**, artistically directed and founded by **Faith Jensen-Ismay**, presented four performances by the **California Rhythm Project** at The Vine Theater on Sept 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013. The Vine, **Mojalet's Place for the Arts**, is located at the Bernardo Winery - a theme park in Rancho Bernardo - complete with gardens, exhibits, shops, and restaurants. This venue has limited seating - so tickets (*beyond reasonably priced*) go fast. Extra seating was added ... but still some had to stand. Every seat in the house has perfect viewing of the entire staging area - and, there is ample, convenient free parking. **Faith Jensen-Ismay**



**ZERO IN ON**  
**California Rhythm Project**  
**Mojalet Dance Collective**  
**Where: The Vine Theatre**  
**Tel: (858) 243-1402**  
**Dates: 9/1-2nd**  
**www.mojalet.com**

**Mullen**, celebrates the rhythms of America - from urban streets, to the hills of Appalachia, to the gospel hand-beats of the South. The new emphasis here, is in the style of tap - and though the technical training displayed by the



dancers truly shows the years of classes, and countless



hours of practice required to present this difficult *dance genre* properly - the overall presentation is unique in that the movements are flowing rather than tight and restricted. The heads, upper bodies, and arms of the dancers lead the legs and feet.

**Katie Amarillas & Sidney Franklin in "Begin the Beguine"**

The dancers heads and bodies are more upright, the arms outstretched, and the rhythms lyrical. Frequently, tap dancers' eyes are totally floor oriented, with arms ridged, and bodies bent forward - and the effort made, is to see how many taps can be crowded into as short a time frame as possible.



**California Rhythm Project** gave us great costumes and sets, with superb lighting and music sound tracks - controlled by tech director **Joe Ismay**, who allowed the taps to be heard more clearly. In each of the selections, the 'tappings' were syncopated and the varying rhythms harmonized.

simultaneous

*"Springtime In The Rockies"*

Usually a tap show gets to be tedious after about ten minutes ... and I'm a tapper. Today however, we were glad to be in the audience from start to finale. Full company numbers were impressive. The tapping never got jumbled - which is a rare accomplishment. The formations were precise and varied. There were always multiple attractions happening harmonically, simultaneously - and the variety of each presentation was exceptional.



Katie Amarilas, Sidney Franklin and Shary Folkmann in *"From The Sole"*

Partial company numbers like *"From the Sole"* danced by **Shary Folkmann**, **Cari Goodwin**, and the only male dancer in the company **Sidney Franklin** (who held his own, soloing and in accompanying all the ladies). *"Taking a Chance on Love"*, featuring mother and daughter **Nancy** and **Adi Mullin** - and in the Bojangles traditional up-and-down-the-stairs aerobics, featuring **Veronica Martinelli** and **Summer Briggs** (who also got her feet in the traditional sand box) ... were equally impressive!



Special mention goes to our longtime friend and guest artist **Claudia Gomez**, whose solo a-cappella improvisation ... brought the audience to our feet. Her beautifully executed taps ring like bells. **Claudia**, now teaches beginning to intermediate tap classes at the Academy of Performing Arts-SD. For more information, go to [www.apastudios.com](http://www.apastudios.com).

Claudia Gomez

The only thing missing for this up and coming Tap Company is a portable wood floor. If you have some material, other donations or some expertise in these areas - please help by calling Director **Nancy Boskin Mullen** at **619-772-2446** ... and, it's tax deductible!!! For further information on classes, auditions, and upcoming performances visit - [www.californiarhythmproject.org](http://www.californiarhythmproject.org).

The last performance in **Mojalet's** 2013 Summer Series, is **Mojalet's** sensational full scale musical production **"A BLAST FROM THE PAST"** - which returns for its second showing this Sept 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> and Sept 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>, here at **Bernardo Winery's** The VINE venue - featuring super-star interlocutor, singer, and dancer **Jonathan Meza** - this production has been nominated for the **Rob Appel's San Diego Theatre Reviews** presented **BRAVO SD AWARDS** - for Best Musical (paid) ... for this current year 2013.



On The Green - DOLPHIN STREET

For tickets to this must-see night of entertainment, and other information about **Mojalet Dance Collective's** upcoming events go to [www.mojalet.com](http://www.mojalet.com) ... or call **1-858-243-1402**.



Bernardo Winery 13330 Paseo Del Verno Norte San Diego, CA 92128

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