



## **Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival Announces 2013 Programming (April 4-30)**

**VANCOUVER, BC** (Feb. 20, 2013) – The first cherry blossoms, Autumnalis and Accolade have been sighted in the West End and downtown so the **Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival** (VCBF) is dancing to celebrate and will soon go into rehearsal for the large scale public performances of the **World Umbrella Dance**. Ever dreamed of taking your place in public in an amazing happening with hundreds of other dancers? Your wish can come true and it takes practice!

To become one of the dancers in the **World Umbrella Dance** during the 2013 **Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival** rehearsals start February 26 at False Creek Community Centre. Shiamak Davar Dance Team lead this pop-up event which takes place at the grand setting of the Vancouver Art Gallery Plaza on April 13 and bounces to a Bollywood beat with live taiko drumming by Tetsu Taiko.

The "umbrella" in the dance is a brilliant pop-art black, yellow and hot pink stylized blossom designed by artist Anthony Redpath for the occasion. It's a rare treat to dance to choreography by ace choreographer Shiamak Davar, who brings the joy of dance to Vancouverites with his new release, "Shabop" ~ to dance without worry and celebrate life.

To hear the lively music and see hip moves from all over the world, check the festival's website, [vcbf.ca](http://vcbf.ca). The umbrellas are there making a splash, too. "Shabop" is a physical dance and as exciting to do as it will be to watch. An instructional video is also there on the website for practise at home. However, even if you are only struck by the umbrella and want to support the Festival, it can be purchased, dance-less, on the website.

The website invites dancers and would be dancers to sign up with rehearsals beginning February 26. Registration includes up to ten rehearsals, some afternoons and some evenings led by Shiamak Davar Dance Team and the keepsake umbrella.

The **Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival** happens at multiple locations around Vancouver with **Sakura Days Japan Fair, Tree Talks & Walks, Haiku Invitational, BC Blossom Watch Photo Contest** and **Bike the Blossoms** and one of its other events, **Plein-Air Blossom Painting**, is now also open for registration.

**For photos, information and/or private media dance lessons, please contact:**

Linda Poole, VCBF Executive Director, 604-767-9044, [linda.poole@telus.net](mailto:linda.poole@telus.net)

**About the Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival Society:**

The *Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival* is a charitable not-for-profit organization with the objective to sustain and renew Vancouver's cherry tree heritage, while educating and actively engaging diverse communities in local arts and culture to celebrate the fragile beauty of the iconic cherry blossom.

[www.facebook.com/VancouverCherryBlossomFestival](http://www.facebook.com/VancouverCherryBlossomFestival)

[www.twitter.com/OfficialVCBF](http://www.twitter.com/OfficialVCBF)

<http://vcfblog.wordpress.com/>

**About Shiamak and Shiamak Davar Dance Company:**

Singer and performing artist, Shiamak Davar is better known as the Guru of Contemporary dance from India. He is largely responsible for modernizing the dance scene in India, especially in the film and theatre industry, and is respected for his ever evolving and very popular "Shiamak Style" of dance. SHIAMAK, as the largest dance education movement in the world, continues to train thousands of dance enthusiasts across India, Canada, Australia, UAE, UK and thus brings communities and cultures together through dance.

The Shiamak Dance Team, Vancouver has performed at various prestigious events like the Opening Ceremony of the World Police and Fire Games at GM Place, The Celebration ceremonies of the 2010 Winter Olympics, they have performed with Bollywood's hottest stars in Toronto at the International Indian Film Academy Awards 2011, The B.C Lacrosse Association 2012 event, as well as the We Day youth event at Rogers Arena last year.



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**World Umbrella Dance Rehearsal Schedule**

Tuesday, February 26, 8:00pm-9:00pm – False Creek Community Centre

Friday, March 1, 7:15pm-8:15pm – Nikkei Cultural Centre

Saturday, March 2, 12:45pm-1:45pm – Creekside Community Centre

Sunday, March 3, 2:15pm-3:15pm – Douglas Park Community Centre

Thursday, March 7, 7:15pm-8:15pm – Kerrisdale Community Centre

Monday, March 11, 6:15pm-7:15pm – Woodward's Atrium

Saturday, March 23, 7:45pm-8:45pm – Sunset Community Centre

Tuesday, March 26, 6:45pm-7:45pm – Strathcona Community Centre

Monday, April 8, 6:45pm-7:45pm – Roundhouse Community Centre

Friday, April 12, 7:00pm-8:00pm – Kitsilano Community Centre

