

Obsidian Butterfly Fire Dance

Press Kit 2010



For booking and company information:

Obsidian Butterfly is a performing arts group specializing in fire dance that has been putting on shows since 2003. The shows include multiple styles of dance and art infused with music, myth, and fantasy to create a unique story told through movement.



Sequoia ryt (200)

Creative Director / owner

(916) 505-5115

sequoia@sacredfiredance.com

Sequoia has been studying shamanic healing arts for over 15 years, yoga since 1997, poi since 2000, Fire Dance since 2002, and has over 25 years of dancing and performing arts experience. Her studies have included photography, belly dance, tap dance, ecstatic movement, Tai-Chi, Qi-Gong, Zen Shiatsu, Acupressure, Buddhist Meditation, Reiki, and sacred forms of ritual dance; specifically Odissi dance.

Since Sequoia started teaching fire arts in 2006, many members of the Sacramento region's fire community have been her students. More than 50 people have received fire dance, safety, and poi training from her. Sequoia currently guides classes in yoga, poi, fire safety, and fire dance, as well as performs and creatively directs Obsidian Butterfly. Her skills include poi, snakes, lunge whips, fans, wings, fire eating, hip belt, sliding orb, flow wand, belly dance, yogic temple dance, interpretive dance, fire fingers, and palms; along with mixed media visual art, music, and fire.

Performer Bio's



Molly Zaputil

Performer

Molly is an original member of Obsidian Butterfly and has been spinning with Obsidian Butterfly since 2004. Molly is known for her beautiful, Mesmerizing, and graceful flowing like water fire-dance. She also makes fire toys and jewelry. Molly's skills include poi, fans, belt, orbs, and fire eating.



Demitra Washington

Performer

Demitra began her fire dancing career in 2006 taking fire dance classes from Sequoia. She has been dancing with Obsidian Butterfly since 2007. Demitra has also studied modern and interpretive forms of dance. She gets her staff spinning skills from years of color guard. Demitra's skills include staff, cane, flag, palms, hula hoop, and fans.



Leona

Performer

Leona began her fire dancing career in 2007 taking fire dance classes from Sequoia. She has been dancing with Obsidian Butterfly since 2008. Leona has studied several forms of Tribal and Cabaret belly dance. She brings an elegant and beautiful flow to our mix. Leona's skills include fire fingers, belt, fans, fire eating, poi, orbs, and palms.



Wesley Gomes

Performer

Wesley is the newest member of Obsidian Butterfly. He previously performed with Ignis Devoco (now Spinnergy Arts) in Seattle, WA and comes to us with over 9 years experience. He directed a mixed media performance troupe that performed during the summer season of the Washington State Renaissance Faire that included dancing, storytelling, acro-balancing, fire, singing, music, and improvisation. Wesley's skills include belly dance, rope dart, color guard staff, poi, fire eating and breathing, as well as Polynesian dance.

Fire Rising: The Obsidian Butterfly Street team

An experience in Tribal Fire Dance consisting of classes, gatherings, adventure workshops, and performances!



We are the wild womyn warrior goddesses who dance with our hearts ablaze.



The Spirit of Fire: Georgia

Began taking poi classes: 2/2008

First burn: 7/22/2008

First official fire performance: Fire Spectacular 8/8/2008

Skills: Poi, Fans, Fire eating, Orb, Glow Poi



Ignition Point: Dell Richards

Began taking poi classes: 3/2008

First burn: 7/22/2008

First glow show: 8/8/2008

First official fire performance: NYE 12/31/2008

Skills: Poi, Fans, Belly dance, Sword Balancing, Machetes, Whips, Belt, Glow Poi



Radiance: Alycia Harr

Began taking classes: 6/2008

First burn: 7/22/2008

First Glow performance: 12/31/2008

First official fire performance: 6/5/2009

Skills: Poi, Double Staff, Fire eating, Rope Dart



Lacey: Fire Frolic

Began taking poi classes: 12/2007

First burn: 4/27/2009

First official fire performance: 6/5/2009



Hearts Ablaze: LouAnn Kelshiemer

Began taking classes: 5/2008

First burn: 4/27/2009

First glow performance: 8/8/2008

First official fire performance: 6/5/2009

Skills: Poi, Snakes, Orbs, Fire Eating, Glow Poi



Luna Blue Rising: Amanda Sanders

Began taking classes: 5/2008

First burn: 4/27/2009

First glow performance: 8/8/2008

First official fire performance: 6/5/2009

Skills: Poi, Snakes, Orbs, Fire Eating, Glow Poi

In the Media

Sacramento Examiner Articles

Everyday People

<http://www.examiner.com/x-27591-Sacramento-Everyday-People-Examiner~y2010m1d16-Bringing-fire-to-Sacramento-in-style-with-Sequoia>

Events

<http://www.examiner.com/x-28237-Sacramento-Events-Examiner~y2010m1d4-Ending-a-year-discovering-Old-Town-again>

The Sacramento Bee Video Link

http://videos.sacbee.com/vmix_hosted_apps/p/media?id=5500626&item_index=3&all=1&sort=NULL

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This story is taken from [Sacbee](#) / [Our Region](#)

Labor Day finish could be the last as state fair considers earlier dates

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At the fair's Weird Wild & Wacky Stage on Monday, Sequoia, left, and Erin St. Blaine of the Fire Pixies performance group stretch out before a performance.

Spotlight: Sequoia

Fire dancer and founder, Obsidian Butterfly

By Cathy Cassinos-Carr | From [August 2009](#)

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Photography by Andy Pischalnikoff

Sequoia, fearless leader of the local fire-dancing troupe Obsidian Butterfly, says she wasn't always so fearless. "When I was younger, I was afraid of fire," she says. "If someone had told me, 'You're going to be a fire dancer,' I would have said, 'Yeah, right.'" But after life took her through some "abrupt changes," Sequoia found her creative release in the ancient art form, and in 2003, Obsidian Butterfly was born. The five-member group, joined by some of Sequoia's fire-dancing students, performs at *Fire Spectacular* on Saturday, Aug. 8, where audiences will likely find themselves bewitched by the mystical mix of fire, dance, storytelling and ritual. "It's kind of like fire theater," explains Sequoia. "Each dancer plays a role to tell a story, but audience members interpret that story in their own way." Local group Drumsum will provide music. The show starts at 7 p.m. at Stellar Studios, 202 23rd St. in midtown. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$25 at the door. For details, call (916) 505-5115 or go to sacredfiredance.com.

THE SACRAMENTO BEE sacbee.com

This story is taken from [Sacbee](#) / [Entertainment](#)

Fire performers in Sacramento turn mastery of flames into art

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Published Saturday, Aug. 08, 2009

Burning wands whoosh through the air. Balls of fire crackle at the end of long chains. A flaming tutu spins to the beating thump of music.

While humans have forever tried to tame the powerful element of fire, fire performers seem to have come close.

Jennifer Criteser, of the Sacramento dance troupe Obsidian Butterfly, grew up with recurring dreams of being burned.

Yet the painter and yoga instructor felt drawn to fire as an artistic medium almost a decade ago, and now teaches others how to manipulate burning balls, fans, belts, wands, batons and wings.

"I think there's some deeper part of me in which it became something to explore," said the 34-year-old who goes by "Sequoia."

The community of fire performers in the Sacramento area has long been the highlight of private parties, corporate events, New Year's Eve celebrations and Second Saturday gallery openings.