

Obsidian Butterfly Sacred Fire Dance

Press Kit



For booking and company information:

Obsidian Butterfly is a performing arts group specializing in fire dance 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

Owner

(916) 505-5115

sequoia@sacredfiredance.com

Sequoia has been studying yoga since 1997, poi since 2000, Fire Dance since 2002, and has over 25 years of dancing and performing experience. Her studies have included belly dance, tap dance, ecstatic movement, Tai-Chi, Qi-Gong, Zen Shiatsu, Reiki, and sacred forms of ritual dance; specifically Odissi dance. Sequoia currently guides classes in yoga, poi, fire safety, and fire dance in Sacramento, CA, as well as performs. Her skills include poi, snakes, whips, fans, fire wings, fire eating, flaming belt, orbs, fire fingers, and palms.

Performer Bio's



Molly Zaputil

Performer / Founding Member

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.

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

smcmanis@sacbee.com

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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.

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

Fire performers in Sacramento turn mastery of flames into art

gkim@sacbee.com

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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.