

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 fire dancing since 2002, she has studied dance for 25 years. Her studies have included belly dance, tap dance, ecstatic movement, yoga, 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, fans, double staff, hoop, wings, and fire eating.

For a complete performance Bio, please visit:

<http://www.sacredfiredance.com/PerformanceBio.html>

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 previously performed with Ignis Devoco (now Spinnergy Arts) in Seattle, WA and comes to us with over 9 years of experience. He directed a mixed media performance troupe that performed during the summer season of the Washington State Renaissance Faire that included dancing, storytelling, acrobatics, 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.

For complete list of performer bios, please visit: <http://www.sacredfiredance.com/Cave.html>

In the Media

Fox 40 with Bethany Crouch (video)

<http://www.fox40.com/videobeta/a8a2a1ee-acfa-4b74-9a58-b763a540fb17/News/Fire-Spectacular-Preview-7-15am->

and

<http://www.fox40.com/videobeta/7d027209-b8c0-4911-b34d-928708d5ce66/News/Fire-Spectacular-Preview-6-45am->

Sac and Co (video)

<http://bcove.me/8g6itkih>

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)

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

THE SACRAMENTO BEE sacbee.com

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.

SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2009

Fire Dancing HERE IN SACRAMENTO!!!

[Obsidian Butterfly](#) and Sequoia are an UNBELIEVABLE fire dancing troop in the area. This troop works with a band called Drum Sum and is available for any unique entertainment or themed event. They come insured (WooHoo for parties interested in hosting private estate events). Even better, they are not limited to fire dancing.

http://monicalynnevents.blogspot.com/2009_05_01_archive.html

Testimonials

Wavy Gravy's 70 70th Birthday Bash at the Berkeley Repertoire Theatre

"Hi Sequoia, it was really cool! Thanks so much for being a part of the show. Wavy did love it. I hope we can work together again some time."

Private Party Testimonials

"Thanks so much for the entertainment at my party - you guys were a hit! I really enjoyed watching your dancing. It was cool to see how into your art you were. It was very memorable! Thanks again, especially last minute like that."

"My family was blown away by the performance. None of us have ever seen fire dance and with a story too! The momentum was amazing one scene right after another. All my family filled up their memory cards on their cameras with the performances. Everyone I spoke with that day had wonderful energy, and it is all due to you and your group."

"You were a rockstar! Seriously, you exceeded all expectations. Everyone loved you and the fire-eating was the highlight of the night. I don't know how to top this next year"

"Hi Sequoia, it was really cool! Thanks so much for being a part of the show. Wavy did love it. I hope we can work together again some time."

"I just want to thank you and your partner for the fabulous show. Days later people are talking about how wonderful you guys were and how it added to our party. I would recommend you to anyone."


"Completely pleased! We're definitely calling you back for our future parties!!!! Once again thank you very much, you were absolutely outstanding in your work! I'll definitely recommend you to all my friends!"

"Last night we were talking about the event and how nice it was to be a Part of it. You really did an amazing job! It resonated at some dark Primitive level deep within my soul.

"It reminds me of a feeling I had watching a film back in 1982. It was A movie called "Cat People". The film opens with a simple repetitive Rhythm beaten out on a drum. The scene is a desert village surrounded by a sandstorm. Blowing sand. Stark images. A young girl is taken from the village and tied to a tree and left as a sacrifice to the large black leopards that live nearby. Later we see another girl brought to a cave, This time the leopard takes her in what looks like a sexual embrace. The Music playing through the opening sequence is by David Bowie. "see these eyes of green... I can stare for a thousand years... colder than the moon..." The rhythm of the opening sequence was aboriginal - like leopards mating, Simple primitive pleasure. Your event had a similar feel to it and a strong primitive energy. You really put the right mix together."

Obsidian Butterfly

Happy Fans

 Thank you and all the members of Obsidian Butterfly for putting on a spectacular performance. From the time the lights faded to the sky till the last torch was extinguished. That performance really will be forever burned into the memories of everyone that was there.

It had really been a long and some what rough day - and to kick back and get into a more relaxed frame of mind by listening to Scott first then to be swept away by the fire performance gave me renewed strength of spirit and mind, to finish the weekend. I have to say it was my child like anticipation that kept me going all day till you guys came on stage that night. Mesmerizing and beautiful

Again, thank you for sharing your talents
It really means a great deal to me as well as everyone
who put on this year's event.

-Lunar Dreams do come true...

Megan



Sacramento News and Review

On the afternoon before the Gallery Horse Cow's Valentine's Day party, the buzz was all over Sacramento. Shoppers scoured downtown stores for pink clothes. (Rumor had it that anyone not dressed in pink had to pay double admission.) At Cheap Thrills, comments flew from the dressing rooms: "I heard this guy wears a metal suit and runs saws all over it, and sparks shoot out." "I'm modeling tonight, and I don't even know what I'm wearing yet." Tyrus Wilson could be seen through the window at Le Fun, furiously sewing for the evening's fashion show. Even the barista at Infusion mentioned he was planning to be a go-go dancer there.

When love is everywhere, there's nothing to do but surrender. So, you assembled the pinkest outfit you could find and arrived just after 11 p.m. Outside, there was a line of people dressed in wigs, wings, faux-fur coats, lingerie, fresh camellias and fluffy sweaters that ran the gamut from light to hot pink. Nearly every one of them tried to talk their way out of the cover, telling the doorman that they had no room for a wallet in their hot pants or that they knew someone inside. Having little patience for those who want to indulge in independent art without financially supporting it, you skipped to the front of the line and offered your money with a smile.

Inside, a couple hundred people lined the perimeters of the warehouse. Square stages were interspersed throughout. Huge movie screens offered simulcast views of each.

For the next several hours, a montage of strange and wonderful sights passed by. Belly dancers shimmed to Eminem tunes. Women covered in fresh flowers spun fire from their fingertips. The Lovemakers played a scintillating set, as vocalist Lisa Light pushed her way through the crowd, staring down boys and singing, "I've got you hypnotized." People in metal suits ran buzz saws over their armor, creating showers of sparks. Models strutted for a seemingly endless fashion show. Some wore pull-tab flapper dresses, inner-tube corsets and gowns made of plastic bags—all recycled-material garments by Davis group Haute Trash.

The trash was fantastic, but the fashion by Amy Hemmens and Wilson was truly visionary. Models with hoods that totally obscured their faces wandered slowly through the warehouse in a parade of white, pink and burgundy. The clothing was so original, there aren't even names for some of the garments: gathered velvet tubes that slid over both arms, shirts shaped like pink bows that bound the arms across the chest and asymmetrical masks that made it impossible to tell a person's gender or race. For the finale of their show, two hooded models climbed atop the center stage and dressed and undressed each other. Some of their garments bound them together, and others barely stayed on their own bodies. Their dance became a metaphor for the transformative properties of relationships. It was a perfect Valentine's Day gift and worth every bit of the buzz.

2/17/05 Sacramento News and Review; Becca Costello