



**500 Dancers expected for Premiere of World Umbrella Dance at Vancouver Art Gallery April 13**  
Cherry Blossom Festival Dance Choreographed by Bollywood Superstar Shiamak Davar

**VANCOUVER, BC (Mar. 21, 2013)** – On Saturday, April 13, 500 dancers will meet at the Vancouver Art Gallery Plaza to celebrate the blossoming of Vancouver’s 40,000 cherry trees by performing the 2013 World Umbrella Dance, choreographed by Bollywood superstar Shiamak Davar and accompanied by the drums of the Tetsu Taiko percussion group.

Dancers and cherry blossom fans can learn the World Umbrella Dance in just one hour at one of four remaining rehearsals being led by Shiamak’s Vancouver Performance Team. Participants can view rehearsal dates and sign up for the dance at [www.vcbf.ca](http://www.vcbf.ca). The site features an instructional video of the dance so participants can practise at home, and everyone who signs up will also receive a limited edition Pop- Art umbrella to use in the dance.

The black, yellow and hot pink was created by artist Anthony Redpath is guaranteed to brighten any rainy day. If you love the umbrella and are not able to participate in the dance you can show your support of the Festival and just purchase the umbrella on the website or from the Urban Tea Merchant and VanDusen Garden Shop.

The **World Umbrella Dance** moves to the beat of Shiamak’s catchy new release, “Shabop” meaning to dance without worry and celebrate life! This theme is in keeping with the festival’s fragile and fleeting cherry blossoms that remind us all to celebrate life now.

The seventh annual **Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival** (VCBF) will celebrate the return of spring to the city and the blossoming of Vancouver’s 55 different varieties of cherry trees from April 4 to 30.

The **Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival** follows the peak bloom of the cherry blossoms around Vancouver with the **Cherry Jam Downtown** concert being the first public performance of the **World Umbrella Dance**. Advance tickets are now on sale at [www.vcbf.ca](http://www.vcbf.ca) for **Sakura Days Japan Fair** at VanDusen, **Plein-Air Blossom Painting** is now also open for registration **Tree Talks & Walks**, **Haiku Invitational**, **BC Blossom Watch Photo Contest**, **Bike the Blossoms** and the new **Sakura Illumination Tour** to experience cherry blossoms after dark.

### 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.



**SHIAMAK**  
Have feet. Will dance.®



**World Umbrella Dance Rehearsal Schedule**

Saturday, March 23, 7:45pm-9:15pm – Sunset Community Centre  
Tuesday, March 26, 6:45pm-8:15pm – Strathcona Community Centre  
Monday, April 8, 6:45pm-8:15pm – Roundhouse Community Centre  
Friday, April 12, 7:00pm-8:30pm – Kitsilano Community Centre

- 30 -

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

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