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## SOMAPA THAI DANCE COMPANY

### SOMAPA

September 2009 Newsletter

#### LATEST NEWS

[Summer Greetings](#)

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#### INFORMATION

website:

[www.somapadance.org](http://www.somapadance.org)

email:

[thaidance@verizon.net](mailto:thaidance@verizon.net)

#### Did you know?



Somapa members have diverse backgrounds and interests:

- Maruit Chulikit studied in Japan and speaks Japanese.
- Warin Tepayayone is a dance therapist.
- Suteera Nagavajara worked in Latin America and speaks Spanish.
- Boosaba Pananon just returned from an internship in Jamaica.
- Kotchakorn Thepnorat is related to the Thai Kings Rama II & III.
- Nipon Saisaard is a one proud Isam (Northeast Thailand) boy.
- Geoff Nelson was in the productions of the Old Lore

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

9/12/09, Silver Spring, MD [Wai Kru Ceremony](#)

9/13/09, Takoma Park, MD [Takoma Park Folk Festival](#)

9/26/09, Reston, VA [Reston Multicultural Festival](#)

9/27/09, Columbia, MD [Touching Hope](#)

#### Dear Friends of Somapa:

Somapa Thai Dance Company is pleased to launch this inaugural edition of its newsletter. We have been actively performing Thai classical and folk dance and giving classes/workshops in the Washington DC area for 10 years. With this newsletter we hope to keep you regularly updated with our activities throughout the year.

Thank you for your continued support. For more information about our group and details of upcoming performances, please visit [www.somapadance.org](http://www.somapadance.org) or email us at [thaidance@verizon.net](mailto:thaidance@verizon.net).

Suteera Nagavajara  
Somapa Thai Dance Company



#### Staying Active This Summer

We hope you are enjoying your summer whether you are gardening, riding your bike, camping, going to the beach or just being active in general. We too have been keeping busy with many activities starting in July when we performed at Expo Danza in Mexico City and this September we will be at summer music and dance festivals in the Washington DC area.

#### Upcoming Events

September 12, 2009  
**Wai Kru Ceremony**  
(traditional Thai ceremony to pay respect to dance & music teachers)



Theater at the Capital Fringe Festival in 2008 & 2009. Both shows were voted Best Dance by the Festival's "Pick of the Fringe".

Join Our Mailing List!

9:00-11:00 am (arrive by 8:30 am)  
Wat Thai DC  
13440 Layhill Road Silver Spring, MD 20906  
Tel. (301) 871-8660  
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

**September 13, 2009**  
**Takoma Park Folk Festival**  
Takoma Park Middle School  
7611 Piney Branch Rd. (near Rt. 410)  
Takoma Park, MD  
Somapa Performance: 12:45-1:15 pm  
World Stage  
Somapa Dance Workshop: 2:00-2:50 pm, Dance Stage  
FREE ADMISSION

**September 26, 2009**  
**Reston Multicultural Festival**  
Lake Anne Village Center, Reston, VA  
Festival from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm  
Somapa performs at 1:50-2:00 pm and 2:15-2:25 pm  
FREE ADMISSION September 27, 2009

**September 27, 2009**  
**Touching Hope**  
Christian Care Foundation for Children with Disabilities (CCD)  
Presentation on CCD Charitable Activities in Thailand  
Come and Enjoy Thai Music, Food & Dance  
3:00-5:00 pm  
Christ Episcopal Church  
6800 Oakland Mills Rd  
Columbia, MD 21045-4706  
RSVP & Info: [info@ccd-usa.org](mailto:info@ccd-usa.org)

## Somapa in Mexico



Somapa Thai Dance Company has been traveling to Mexico regularly since 2007. Sponsored by the Royal Thai Embassy in Mexico City, the group has performed in such locations as Teatro Angela Peralta and the World Trade Center in Mexico City, Teatro Juárez in Guanajuato, and Teatro Angela Peralta in San Miguel de Allende. We really appreciate the genuine interest and enthusiasm of the Mexican audience from small towns to big cities. We found the Mexicans' appreciation of cultures from other countries and pride in their own history and culture truly amazing.

### About Somapa Thai Dance Company

The Somapa Thai Dance Company, based in the Washington DC metropolitan area, has been actively giving performances, presentations, classes, and workshops since 1999. The group has performed extensively in the D.C. Metropolitan area, as well as other states in the U.S., including such locations as the Kennedy Center, the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History and Arthur M. Sackler and Freer Gallery of Art, the Smithsonian Folklife Festival, the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts, and the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Massachusetts. Key members of the troupe have over 25 years of performing experience and were trained in Thailand with the most celebrated dance instructors, who are National Artists and teach at the prestigious Department of Fine Arts in Bangkok, Thailand.

The Somapa Thai Dance Company's mission is to preserve and promote Thai culture and arts in North America. The group trains Thai-American youth at the Thai temple in Silver Spring, Maryland and interested Americans at [Joe's Movement Emporium](#) in Mt. Rainier, Maryland.