



Media Contact: Julio Trejo  
julio@the3collective.com  
Office: (213)-617-3640

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
PHOTOS available at: [www.viverbrasil.com](http://www.viverbrasil.com)

**Viver Brasil Presents...**  
**“*Alaafia/Harmony*”**  
**at Ford Amphitheatre on July 31**

*“Intoxicating style...the Candomblé chants and jubilant dances, with their accompanying rhythms...can transport performers and audiences alike.” – Los Angeles Times*

**LOS ANGELES** (June 7, 2010) – Featuring six guest artists from Salvador, Bahia, Brazil, acclaimed dance company **Viver Brasil** returns for its 8<sup>th</sup> straight season at the Ford Amphitheatre with the company’s signature styling of high-energy Afro-Bahian rhythms, elegant dancers, original music, exuberant colors, and costumes in **“Alaafia/Harmony”** on **July 31 at 8:30 p.m.** This engaging performance is the follow-up to Viver Brasil’s **Lester Horton Dance Award-winning** 2009 production of **“Feet on the Ground/Aiyê,”** recently recognized for **“Best Achievement in World Dance.”**

“Alaafia/Harmony” will feature six acclaimed Bahian guests who are visiting thanks to the support of the **Brazilian Ministry of External Relations** and the **Consulate General of Brazil** in Los Angeles: young virtuoso dancers **Vera Passos** (formerly of Balé Folclórico da Bahia), **Nildinha Fonseca** (currently of Balé Folclórico da Bahia), along with composer **Jose Ricardo Sousa** (musical director of Balé Folclórico da Bahia), and **Vania Amaral** (singer and Candomblé’ devotee). Revered Candomblé’ elders, **Maria de Lourdes, Silvestre dos Santos** (AKA Iyalorixa Mainha da Bahia), and **Nancy de Souza e Silva** (AKA Dona Cici) will also enrich the performance with authentic movement and song drawn from their deep understanding of the spiritual foundation of contemporary Afro-Brazilian culture.

**“Alaafia/Harmony”** will showcase Viver Brasil’s awe-inspiring movement vocabularies of traditional and contemporary Afro-Brazilian dance and history, culture and music, while embodying the Yoruba concept of peace: totality of well-being, the fullness of life here and hereafter, the sum total of all that humankind may desire– harmony in life. The performance will be based upon the complex stories of the **orixas**, Yoruba deities from the family of Obatala, the orixa of peace. Ideas informed by the afoxês (Afro-Bahian parading groups) will also be a part of the evening’s mix.

Highlights for **“Alaafia/Harmony”** include contemporary Afro-Brazilian choreography by renowned masters, including **Rosangela Silvestre** and **Luiz**

**Badaró.** The uplifting original music is composed by **Silvestre, Badaró, Mario Pallais** and **Jose Ricardo Sousa**. The music will serve as a sonic backdrop to the amazing pageantry, spectacle and excitement of this dance extravaganza.

**“Alaafia/Harmony” is funded in part by the National Dance Project of the New England Foundation for the Arts, with lead funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, Ford Foundation, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the Community Connections Fund of the MetLife Foundation. Additional funding provided by the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs/Cultural Exchange International, Wild Oats Café, Soul Brasil Magazine, pelourinho.com, setemagazine.com, the Los Angeles Sister Cities Program, the Brazilian Ministry of External Relations, the Consulate General of Brazil in Los Angeles.**

### **About Viver Brasil:**

Founded in 1997, the award winning Viver Brasil is rooted in the traditional and contemporary dance forms and techniques of Salvador, Bahia, Brazil and is dedicated to exploring and preserving the passion and theatricality of Afro-Brazilian dance. The company specializes in the Afro-Brazilian culture from the Northeastern region of Brazil, (where the African presence is most prominent). Dancers and drummers bring to life the epic, tantalizing stories of the *orixa*, African deities or spirits that are the pulse of the culture, plus present ecstatic samba, contemporary Afro-Brazilian dance and carnival choreography.

Under the artistic direction of Linda Yudin and Luiz Badaró and with the riveting choreography of internationally renowned choreographer Rosangela Silvestre, from Salvador, Brazil, Viver Brasil layers Afro-Brazilian moves, myths and driving rhythms with an array of drums and vocals.

The core dancers of Viver Brasil possess a strong background in Afro-Brazilian dance (most have trained in Bahia via Viver Brasil's annual dance trips) and have eclectic training in Silvestre and Dunham techniques, ballet, capoeira, hip-hop, and West African.

*“From the first exhilarating sound of the atabaque drums, a surge of electricity sweeps through the audience, unites us with the irrepressibly energetic troupe of dancers, drummers and singers and keeps us in an elevated, almost combustible state until well past the last sound fades away.” – LA Weekly*

### **ABOUT THE FORD AMPHITHEATRE**

The Ford Amphitheatre is located at 2580 Cahuenga Blvd. East, Hollywood, CA 90068, just off the 101 Hollywood Freeway across from the Hollywood Bowl and south of Universal Studios. The grounds open two hours before showtime for picnicking. The Ford offers a number of dining options: a variety of food and beverages is available on site and box dinners for evening events may be ordered in advance. Patrons are welcome to bring their own food and drink.

The Ford is disabled accessible. Portable wireless listening devices are available upon request. **On-site, stacked parking** costs \$5 per vehicle for evening shows and \$1 per vehicle for morning family shows. For evening shows only, **FREE non-stacked parking serviced by a FREE shuttle to the Ford, for evening amphitheatre performances only**, is available at the Universal City Metro Station lot at Lankershim Blvd. and Campo de Cahuenga. The shuttle, which cycles every 15-20 minutes, stops in the "kiss and ride" area.

This event is part of the Ford Amphitheatre 2010 Season, a multi-disciplinary arts series produced by the Los Angeles County Arts Commission in cooperation with Los Angeles County-based arts organizations. For a complete season schedule, directions to the theater and parking information, log on to [www.FordTheatres.org](http://www.FordTheatres.org).

# # #

## Calendar Listing for “*Alaafia/Harmony*”

WHEN: July 31, 2008 at 8:30 p.m.

WHO: Viver Brasil presents “*Alaafia/Harmony*”

Members of L.A.'s Viver Brasil dance company have steeped themselves in Afro-Brazilian culture, working with leading practitioners from Bahia, Brazil, and producing vibrant Ford evenings. Six acclaimed Bahian guests visiting from Brazil perform with the company this year. Peace, as expressed in the tradition of the **Yoruba** community, is at the center of the performance. Uptempo passionate dance, performed in costumes crafted by devotees of Afro-Brazilian sacred practice, blends seamlessly with Portuguese and African vocals and the rhythms of drums and percussion to create a totality of well being – the harmony in life, Alaafia.

According to the LA Times the company is "an intoxicating foray into the exotic...pyrotechnic physicality."

Venue: **John Anson Ford Amphitheatre**  
2580 Cahuenga Blvd. East, Hollywood, CA 90068  
**HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE**

Price: **Early buyer incentive: purchase by July 24 and pay only \$30**

**Full price \$35**

**VIP \$150**

**Students and Children \$12.**

TIX/Info: **Box Office Phone – 323 461-3673 (or 323 GO 1-FORD)**  
**<http://fordtheatres.org/en/events/details/id/70>**  
**[www.FordTheatres.org](http://www.FordTheatres.org)**

###