

## **SACHIKO "LA CHAYÍ"** **Dancer-Choreographer**

A native of Osaka, Japan, Sachiko Nishiuchi—affectionately known as “La Chayí”—has been a passionate flamenco dancer, teacher, presenter and producer for more than 20 years. Sachiko fell in love with the art form while still in high school in Japan where the dance is popular, and began taking flamenco classes soon after college.

In 2000, Sachiko moved to Minnesota where she became a resident artist of Zorongo Flamenco Dance Theatre in Minneapolis. She also worked with various dance companies, theaters, and organizations including Ananya Dance Theater, The Southern Theater, and Theatre de la Jeune Lune. Expanding into choreography, Sachiko created and presented original flamenco theater works including *Hiroshima: A Night Dreamt and a Day Flashed to Burn* (2007), an Intermedia Arts' co-presentation project, and *The Apple Tree* (2009), part of the Walker Art Center's Momentum series.

She has been a recipient of various awards and honors including the 2009 People's Choice Award at the Minnesota SAGE Awards for Dance, and a study grant from the Jerome Foundation.

Sachiko moved to Seville, Spain in 2010 to deepen her knowledge and skill of the flamenco art form. Her first-hand exposure to Seville's people, culture, language, and origins would prove transformational. For five years, she performed at various flamenco venues throughout the city and studied with such influential teachers as Pilar Montoya Manzano (“La Faraona”), Farruquito, El Torombo, Luis Peña, and Javier Heredia as well as other artists such as Miguel Funi and Juan del Gastor. It was Pilar Montoya Manzano who gave her the name “La Chayí” which Sachiko has retained to honor her late, great teacher.

In 2015, Sachiko returned to Minneapolis where she regularly teaches and performs. Her travels often take her back to Spain, Japan, and other parts of the world to dance, study, and share her love affair with the art of flamenco.