KATHARA DANCE THEATER COLLECTIVE, INC. (KATHARA-DAVAO)

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Kathara is a twenty-one year old repertory company founded and organized by Elenita Boots Cruz Dumlao, the Artistic Director. The company hopes to facilitate opportunities for learning and understanding of the Mindanaoan Culture, Arts and History according to the perspective of its multi-ethnic population.

Since 1986, it continued to provide venues for skills enhancement among young artists and hundreds of students and out-of-school youth in the City of Davao and neighboring provinces.

The company is composed of professional Artists both young and seasoned adults who have earned credibility through years of exposure, interaction, studies and experiences. Most of the adult members have toured Europe, United States and Asia, not only as artists but also as educators performing and conducting workshops on Mindanaoan Arts and Culture.

The company spearheaded a Mindanaoan Culture and Arts Mission to Canada in 2002, a one year cross-cultural exchange and inter-action in Vancouver, and organized KATHARA CANADA with members coming from Filipino-Canadian and cross cultural communities, sharing different lines of expertise in dance, music, martial arts, visual arts and media technology. Today (2006), Kathara Canada has become one of the more popular youth cross-cultural organizations in Vancouver and has been receiving awards from different institutions and the government for the company's volunteerism and community work in arts and culture.

Kathara(Davao) represented the Philippines in the Langkawi International Festival of the Arts 2002, Malaysia, and earned outstanding reviews from culture and arts critiques.

It became the official cultural arm of the Department of Tourism, Region XI in 2003, and was commissioned to do series of performances for WOW Philippines in Manila.

It represented Mindanao in the National Commission for Culture and Arts National Celebration of Sayaw Pinoy, performing with the Bayanihan Dance Company, Leyte Dance Company and the Quezon City Ballet in 2004.

Represented Davao City in the national celebration of the Silver Anniversary of the Cultural Center of the Philippines Exchange Program in 2004 held in Marbel, South Cotabato.
A long Standing Ovation was given to the company by the delegates coming from different countries, who attended the First Peoples Forum on Peace for Life, an International conference of peace advocates which was organized by the National Council of Churches in the Philippines with their local and International counterparts last November 30, 2004 at CAP.

Versatile in style and form, it was chosen to be one of the top ten contemporary performing arts companies from all over the Philippines, in three consecutive years from 2005 to 2007 and participated in the Modern Dance National Invitational Challenge, which was sponsored, by the province of South Cotabato and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts.

Today, KATHARA has become one of the most credible performing arts groups in Mindanao Philippines. Since its conception, the group has already mounted several plays, which draw inspiration from various folk stories, legends and myths of the indigenous communities of Davao City and Mindanao.

Performing regularly at the Matina Town Square, Davao City, it continuously innovates its performance styles and part of its regular repertoire is the contemporary Dancetheater suit, which focuses on new creative dance explorations.

The company is an active participant of arts and culture activities. The very recent are the Asean Tourism Forum, and the International Theater Institute-Theatre Olympics where it collaborated with the Mindulani Inc.

It had a featured performance as one of the best production pieces for Sayaw Mindanao this August 2007.

At present, the company is focused on its outreach program, helping and facilitating schools and organizations build their own repertory ensembles.