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## ODC WELCOMES CHRISTOPHER DENNIS AS MANAGING DIRECTOR



Christopher Dennis photographed by M. Bognovitz.

[www.odc.dance](http://www.odc.dance)

SAN FRANCISCO, CA, July 10, 2025 – ODC is pleased to announce the appointment of **Christopher Dennis** as managing director, effective September 8. Dennis joins the company after a distinguished career as director of production for The National Ballet of Canada and before that San Francisco Ballet.

Dennis moves into his role at ODC as the organization's first-ever managing director, a position made possible through a private gift. "This is a strategic step forward in strengthening our internal operations to grow our capacity and impact," said ODC Executive Director **Carma Zisman**. As managing director, Dennis will oversee day-to-day operations, cross-departmental coordination and internal systems.

A seasoned arts executive, Dennis is known for his decisive leadership, meticulous attention to detail and ability to inspire collaborative excellence across diverse teams. Dennis brings over two decades of expertise at the highest levels of dance and performing arts production, and he is a passionate advocate for the performing arts.

At The National Ballet of Canada, Dennis guided a multidisciplinary team through complex productions, national and international tours, and large-scale productions at the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts. He played a key role in season planning, budgeting, union negotiations and touring

strategies, ensuring the company's artistic vision was realized at the highest level of technical and operational excellence. Prior to that, he served as the director of production at San Francisco Ballet for 14 seasons, where his leadership was critical to the successful delivery of new works, national and international tours, and high-profile digital projects and dance films.

Dennis began his career in lighting design, where he honed his expertise at institutions such as The Metropolitan Opera, White Oak Dance Project, The Stratford and Shaw Festivals, as well as The National Ballet of Canada. His lighting designs remain in the repertoires of companies across the globe, including San Francisco Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, Boston Ballet, The Joffrey Ballet, Pacific Northwest Ballet and West Australian Ballet. With a BFA in Technical Production from Toronto Metropolitan University and an Executive Leadership Certificate from Cornell University, Dennis brings to ODC both practical knowledge and strategic acumen.

"As I prepare to move back to the Bay Area from Toronto to begin a new role at ODC, I'm filled with excitement at the opportunities ahead," said Dennis. "I look forward to building on ODC's legacy of innovation, artistic excellence and community engagement, ensuring the organization remains a vital force in the Bay Area arts landscape for many years to come."

## **ABOUT ODC**

Founded in 1971 by Artistic Director Brenda Way, ODC is a groundbreaking contemporary arts institution: a world-class dance company (ODC/Dance), a theater with year-round presenting and mentorship programs (ODC Theater), a training school for dancers and movers of all levels (ODC School), and a fee-free, educational Healthy Dancers' Clinic. Known nationally for its entrepreneurial savvy and artistic innovation, ODC is unique for its holistic vision, now including a robust digital platform. With its home in San Francisco's Mission District, ODC makes a dynamic contribution to the Bay Area's vibrant dance and arts ecosystem, cultivating artists, inspiring audiences, engaging the community, and fostering diversity and inclusion through dance performance, training and mentorship.