



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ODC ANNOUNCES ITS SUMMER SEASON

July 30 - August 2: Summer Sampler

August 6 - 9: Eddie Brown Tap Dance Symposium

August 28 - 30: State of Play



odc.dance

"Today, it's hard to think of an organization more central to the Bay Area's dance ecology than ODC." – Rachel Howard for *Dance Magazine*

SAN FRANCISCO, CA, May 21, 2026 – ODC is pleased to announce a busy summer season on campus headlined by three events: **Summer Sampler**, July 30 - August 2; the **Eddie Brown Tap Dance Symposium**, August 6 - 9; and **State of Play**, August 28 - 30. Tickets for most events are now on sale at odc.dance/tickets.

This summer at ODC offers dozens of opportunities to see a show, take a class, and socialize with dance artists and other arts patrons. Among its major offerings is **SUMMER SAMPLER**, an annual program of ODC's flagship company inside ODC's intimate, historic theater. This year's event goes big with a triple

bill that includes a world premiere by ODC Co-Artistic Director **Mia J. Chong**, an exciting new work featuring a blended cast of nine dancers from ODC/Dance and EIGHT/MOVES, a contemporary dance company Chong founded three years ago. Chong has commissioned new music from saxophonist **Raffi Garabedian**, who will perform live. **Chad Owens** serves as scenic designer.

The program also includes a world premiere by returning guest choreographer **Catherine Galasso**, drawing from the lives and artistry of ODC's founding women **Brenda Way**, **Kimi Okada** and **KT Nelson**. Titled *UNRELIABLE NARRATOR*, the work features candid interviews with all three women as well as rare stage appearances. *UNRELIABLE NARRATOR* marks Galasso's fourth commission for ODC. Her most recent work for ODC/Dance, *10,000 Steps: A Dance About Its Own Making*, was hailed as "a thrilling extension of dance's possibilities," exuding "brainy wit and flashes of profundity" (*San Francisco Chronicle*).

Rounding out Summer Sampler's program is Nelson's Izzie award-nominated *Nothing's Gonna Make Sense (Reflections on Grief)*. "Bravely weird, risky, simultaneously masterful and uncontrolled," (*San Francisco Chronicle*), *Nothing's Gonna Make Sense* is the choreographer's response to the sudden death of her husband in 2023; it premiered last year.

Tickets for Summer Sampler start at \$45, with a limited number of Arts Access tickets discounted at \$30. For reservations, visit odc.dance/summersampler.

Less than a week after Summer Sampler closes, ODC Theater returns to life in the **EDDIE BROWN TAP DANCE SYMPOSIUM**, celebrating the late Eddie Brown, a legend on the West Coast's tap scenes. Before he died in 1992, Brown earned a reputation as "one of the greatest exponents of rhythm tap" (*Los Angeles Times*).

Created by Brown's protégé **Babs Yohai** along with husband-and-wife tap educators **Gabe** and **Mindy Copeland**, ODC's Symposium offers four days of classes and workshops at all levels, embodying Brown's signature "scientific" rhythms. The event culminates in a public showcase at 5 p.m. on Sunday, August 9, featuring a preview screening of the **Eddie Brown Documentary**. Special guest **Bill Irwin**, a student of Brown's in the 1970s, will be joined on stage by **The Cottontails** with **Karina Deniké**.

Workshop reservations and tickets for the film screening and live show on August 9 will go on sale at odc.dance/eddiebrown on June 1.

In late August, ODC's annual summer dance festival, **STATE OF PLAY**, returns with performances across ODC's campus. Curated by ODC Theater Creative Director **Chloë L. Zimberg** and ODC Theater Resident Curator **Zaquia Mahler Salinas**, the festival invites audiences to join the creative process through an artistic exchange, presenting premieres alongside works-in-progress by dance artists from around the Bay Area and across the U.S.

This year's program features four evening-length works and five short-form works at various stages of development. Participating artists include **Babaturji**, **Khala Brannigan**, **Leslie Cuyjet**, **Dragons Dance/Erin Yen**, **Laila J. Franklin**, **Malinda LaVelle** and **Emmaly Wiederholt**, **gizeh muñiz**, **Johnny Huy Nguyễn** and **seymour::dancecollective** under the direction of **Chafin Seymour**.

Festival passes starting at \$80 are now on sale at odc.dance/stateofplay.

Additional events in ODC's summer calendar include a **Community Showcase, June 12 - 13**, the culmination of ODC School's performance workshops for adult students, from bellydance to ballet. An **exhibition of the photography of Doug Winter**, KT Nelson's late husband, who in addition to dancing with ODC in the 70s and early 80s was a prolific photographer of the Bay Area's dance scene, opens **June 25** in the ODC Theater lobby. And a range of new introductory classes in capoeira, salsa, contemporary and more begins at dates throughout the summer. For more information, visit odc.dance/school.

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, 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.

FACT SHEET

WHAT:

SUMMER SAMPLER

"A mainstay of the San Francisco dance calendar" (*SF/Arts*), ODC's flagship dance company performs at ODC Theater. This year's program features a triple bill including two world premieres.

Program:

Untitled (world premiere) by **Mia J. Chong**

UNRELIABLE NARRATOR (world premiere) by **Catherine Galasso**

Nothing's Gonna Make Sense (Reflections on Grief) (2025) by **KT Nelson**

EDDIE BROWN TAP DANCE SYMPOSIUM

Classes and workshops at all levels culminate in a public showcase featuring a preview screening of the **Eddie Brown Documentary**. Special guest **Bill Irwin**, a student of Brown's in the 1970s, will be joined on stage by **The Cottontails** with **Karina Deniké**.

STATE OF PLAY

Four evening-length works and five short-form works at various stages of development by artists from around the Bay Area and across the U.S.: **Babatunji, Khala Brannigan, Leslie Cuyjet, Dragons Dance/Erin Yen, Laila J. Franklin, Malinda LaVelle** and **Emmaly Wiederholt, gizeh muñiz, Johnny Huy Nguyễn** and **seymour::dancecollective** under the direction of **Chafin Seymour**.

WHEN:

SUMMER SAMPLER

July 30 - August 2, 2026

Thursday - Saturday at **7:30 p.m.**

Sunday at **5 p.m.**

EDDIE BROWN TAP DANCE SYMPOSIUM

August 6 - 9, 2026

Workshops on Thursday, **5 - 8 p.m.**

Workshops on Friday, **12 - 6 p.m.**

Workshops on Saturday, **12:30 - 6:30 p.m.**

Workshops on Sunday, **11 a.m - 3 p.m.**

Film screening and live performances on Sunday at **5 p.m.**

STATE OF PLAY

August 27 - 30, 2026

Kick-off Party at 836M on Thursday at **7:30 p.m.**

Opening Night Performance & After-Party on Friday at **7 p.m.**

Performances on Saturday, **3 - 9:30 p.m.**

Performances on Sunday, **2:30 - 9 p.m.**

WHERE:

ODC Theater

3153 17th Street
San Francisco, CA 94110

ODC Dance Commons

351 Shotwell Street
San Francisco, CA 94110

836M

836 Montgomery Street
San Francisco, CA 94133

TICKETS:

SUMMER SAMPLER

General admission starts at **\$45**, with a limited number of Arts Access tickets discounted at \$30. For reservations, visit odc.dance/summersampler.

EDDIE BROWN TAP DANCE SYMPOSIUM

Workshop reservations and tickets for the film screening and live show on August 9 will go on sale at odc.dance/eddiebrown on June 1.

STATE OF PLAY

Festival passes starting at **\$80** are now on sale at odc.dance/stateofplay.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

www.odc.dance

For all press inquiries please contact John Hill at john@johnhillpr.com.