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ODC/DANCE ANNOUNCES ITS ANNUAL HOME SEASON

Dance Downtown

*Featuring world premieres by Brenda Way and Gypsy Snider
Plus a recent work by ODC's new Co-Artistic Director Mia J. Chong*

ODC's Gala to take place on Friday, March 6

March 5 - 8, 2026
Blue Shield of California Theater at YBCA



Photo by RJ Muna.

odc.dance/downtown

"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, December 15, 2025 – ODC/Dance has announced the program for **DANCE DOWNTOWN**, the company's annual home season at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. Dance Downtown runs Thursday, March 5 through Sunday, March 8, 2026. In conjunction with Dance Downtown, the organization's annual **Gala** will take place on Friday, March 6. Tickets, starting at \$30 for the performance and \$190 for the performance plus Gala after-party, are now on sale at odc.dance/downtown.

Headlining next year's program are two world premieres. The company will present *After the Deluge* by ODC Founder and Artistic Director **Brenda Way**, and *Caught in the Act* by guest choreographer **Gypsy Snider**, co-founder and artistic director of The 7 Fingers, the internationally acclaimed contemporary circus collective based in Montreal. Rounding out the program is *Theories of Time* choreographed by newly appointed ODC/Dance Co-Artistic Director **Mia J. Chong**.

A year in the making, *After the Deluge* is a meditation on natural disasters. "Prompted by the 20th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, the dance is set in a pervasive landscape of love and loss. How do we respond? Do we step up or simply walk away?" asks Way. With music by Nils Frahm, Max Richter and Chad Lawson, *After the Deluge* is a work for the full company that pushes the dancers to the brink and back.

Best known in the Bay Area as the producer, co-writer, director and choreographer of the long-running hit show *Dear San Francisco*, Snider's ties to the region date back to the 1970s. Her parents were the founders of The Pickle Family Circus, and Snider grew up touring the West Coast with the company. ODC School Director **Kimi Okada** was a founding member of The Pickle Family Circus – she performed the tap-dancing gorilla – and she taught four-year-old Snider how to tap.

Snider's commission with ODC/Dance is a full-circle moment. "ODC embodies the San Francisco legacy I grew up with, when art and culture were the social backbone of the city," said Snider. "Growing up in the Pickle Family Circus I learned raw, physical storytelling rooted in community, risk and joyful fearlessness. Sharing those same roots, ODC feels like home while also pushing me to expand my own vocabulary within the world of modern dance."

Snider has titled her new piece *Caught in the Act*, describing it as a "spirited mirror held up to our daily experience as performers in a social- and media-driven political circus. In the worlds of cabaret and circus, we expect a direct relationship with the audience, and I've enjoyed exploring ways to play with the fourth wall in the context of concert dance."

Finally, ODC/Dance will remount Chong's *Theories of Time* which premiered at ODC Theater this past summer. Next year marks Chong's first season in her new role as co-artistic director, and her newest work traces the mysterious nature of time – how it rushes forward, halts in moments of intensity, or slips quietly through memory. Inspired by the science and sensation of time perception, this work abstractly explores time as both fixed and fluid – not merely something we measure, but something we shape.

ODC/Dance company members this season include **Jeremy Bannon-Neches, Jaime Garcia Castilla, Rachel Furst, Caitlin Hicks, Ja'Moon Jones, Joanne Kim, Jenna Marie, Addison Norman, Christian Squires** and **Colton Wall**.

GALA

ODC will hold its annual Gala on Friday, March 6. Presiding over the event as Honorary Chair will be Speaker Emerita **Nancy Pelosi**. ODC is proud to celebrate the legacy of the distinguished speaker, one of San Francisco's and our nation's fiercest advocates for the role of the arts within a thriving society.

The Gala will take place in both the Forum and the Blue Shield of California Theater at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. Cocktails and passed hors d'oeuvres will be served as guests arrive at 5 p.m. followed by a lavishly catered dinner at 6 p.m.

At 8 p.m., guests will convene in the Theater for a performance by ODC/Dance featuring the world premiere of *After the Deluge*, choreographed by Brenda Way. The program will also include Way's *Investigating Grace* (1999), an interpretation of Glenn Gould's celebrated recording of J. S. Bach's *Goldberg Variations*. A decade after its premiere, *Investigating Grace* was named an American masterpiece by the National Endowment for the Arts.

The evening continues at an after-party with delicious bites, desserts, dancing and other delights.

Gala tickets start at \$190, and tables may be reserved for \$12,000 and up. Patrons who purchase a ticket to Dance Downtown on March 6 are also invited to add a pass to the Gala after-party for \$100. All proceeds from ticket sales support ODC and its mission to inspire audiences, cultivate artists, and foster diversity and inclusion through dance. For more information and to make a reservation, visit odc.dance/gala.

ABOUT GYPSY SNIDER (Guest Choreographer)

Gypsy Snider is the co-founder and artistic director of The 7 Fingers, the internationally acclaimed Montreal-based contemporary circus collective. Born into the world of circus in San Francisco, Snider began performing at age four when her parents founded the legendary Pickle Family Circus.

Snider performed with Cirque du Soleil and Teatro Zinzanni before co-founding The 7 Fingers in 2002. That same year, she returned to the Pickles to write and direct *Circumstance*. Since 2021, The 7 Fingers has resided in the iconic Club Fugazi in North Beach, where Snider serves as producer, co-writer, director and choreographer of the long-running hit show *Dear San Francisco*.

Snider's work extends across theater, film, television, immersive performance and large-scale spectacle. Most recently, she served as acrobatic designer for *Masquerade NYC*, an immersive reimagining of *The Phantom of the Opera* directed by Diane Paulus. Her first collaboration with Paulus – the 2013 Broadway revival of *Pippin* – earned Snider both a Drama Desk Award and an Outer Critics Circle Award for her groundbreaking circus-infused choreography.

Her diverse range of projects includes choreography for *Peter Pan 360*, direction and choreography for *Ships in the Night* and *Disco Circus* for Virgin Voyages, and the creation of her first short film, *Out of Order (En Panne)*, written and co-directed during the pandemic lockdown. In the summer of 2024, she premiered *Géante*, a large-scale outdoor performance offered to the city of Montreal. Snider has also

choreographed feature performances for *America's Got Talent*, *Her Majesty's Royal Variety Performance*, the UEFA Draft Opening Ceremony and *Darcy Oake: Edge of Reality*.

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:

ODC/Dance presents **DANCE DOWNTOWN** featuring world premieres by Brenda Way and guest choreographer Gypsy Snider, plus a recent work by Mia J. Chong.

Program on March 5, 7 & 8:

After the Deluge (world premiere) by **Brenda Way**

Caught in the Act (world premiere) by **Gypsy Snider**

Theories of Time (2025) by **Mia J. Chong**

Gala Program on March 6:

After the Deluge (world premiere) by **Brenda Way**

Investigating Grace (1999) by **Brenda Way**

WHEN:

March 5 – 8, 2026

Thursday, March 5 at **7:30 p.m.** (Opening night)

Friday, March 6 at **8 p.m.** (Gala)

Saturday, March 7 at **7:30 p.m.** (LGBTQIA+ Night; ASL interpretation provided)

Sunday, March 8 at **2 p.m.** (Balcony Talk at 1 p.m.)

WHERE:

Blue Shield of California Theater at YBCA

700 Howard Street

San Francisco, CA 94103

TICKETS:

Tickets for Dance Downtown: \$30 - \$125

March 6 only: There is an optional \$100 ticket add-on to attend the Gala after-party.

To purchase tickets online visit odc.dance/downtown or call the box office at **415-863-9834**.

Tickets for the Gala start at **\$190**, and tables start at **\$12,000**. For reservations, visit odc.dance/gala or call the development office at **415-549-8508**.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

www.odc.dance

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