



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ODC THEATER PRESENTS **FUNSCH DANCE EXPERIENCE**
IN THE WORLD PREMIERE OF **EPOCH**

October 2, 2021
Saturday, 10 a.m. - 10 p.m. PT



Nina Wu photographed by Robbie Sweeny.

www.odc.dance

SAN FRANCISCO, CA, August 2, 2021 – ODC Theater is proud to present **Funsch Dance Experience** in the world premiere of **EPOCH**, created by choreographer **Christy Funsch**. A one-day-only performance, **EPOCH** will take place before an in-person audience on Saturday, October 2 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. PT. The event will also be offered as a live digital simulcast. (Proof of full vaccination is required for in-person attendance.) Tickets start at \$10, and may be purchased online at odc.dance/EPOCH or by phone at 415-863-9834.

In cheeky defiance of choreographer Doris Humphrey’s warning that “all dances are too long,” Funsch Dance Experience’s **EPOCH** unfolds over a span of 12 hours in a gratuitous surplus of movement, interrupted by moments of nothingness. Is endurance political? What bonds does an unlikely scenario forge? Working with a large ensemble of 15 dancers, one on-stage musician, and two choreographer-collaborators, Funsch developed the piece over the course of two years, excavating movement ideas from her past, then editing and amalgamating them together with ideas from her many collaborators into an epic new event.

At the heart of the work is an investigation into an idea of the task as ritual, together with an investigation into structures of power. “It seems to me that conventional models of power are continually exerting themselves, similar to the way capitalism requires constant consumption,” said Funsch. “I’m arguing, through the elevation and spotlighting of task, for the virtue of slowness and a commitment to dailiness.”

Joining Funsch in *EPOCH* are dancers **Shareen DeRyan, Aura Fischbeck, Emily Hansel, Chinchin Hsu, Zoe Huey, Hien Huynh, Jenna Marie, Jennifer Minore, Nadia Oka, Jennifer Perfilio, Phoenicia Pettyjohn, Nol Simonse, Victor Talledos, Lisa Townsend** and **Nina Wu**. Composer **Cheryl Leonard** joins the ensemble performing a score on her trademark instruments assembled from the natural world.

Additional collaborators include lighting designer **Danielle Ferguson**, video artist **Leo Moring** and choreographic partners **Maurya Kerr** and **Coral Martin**. Funsch invited Kerr and Martin to assume directorial control of *EPOCH* during the rehearsal process. Material re-imagined by them will become part of the finished work.

“After a one-year delay, we are thrilled to have *EPOCH* open our fall season,” said ODC Theater Creative Director **Chloë Zimberg**. “Christy Funsch’s work invites audiences into a dissolution of formalism, physically rooted in the dailiness of tasks that are devotional, ritualistic and everyday. As audience members, we are asked to be patient, to slow down towards a durational mode of being, which for me is an inexplicably warm invitation back into the Theater.”

EPOCH has received generous funding from New Music USA; the Zellerbach Family Foundation; the Fleishhacker Foundation; the California Arts Council's Local Impact Award; the Lighting Artists in Dance Award, a program of Dancers' Group; Paul Dresher's DEAR Residency; PACE (Program to Aid Citizen Enterprise) Award; CA\$H Grant; and Triskelion Arts Space Subsidy grant from New York State Council on the Arts. For more information, visit odc.dance/EPOCH.

ABOUT CHRISTY FUNSCH

Christy Funsch founded Funsch Dance Experience in 2002 to question representation, narrative and conventional depictions of women through deeply investigated movement vocabularies. Her work has been presented in Amsterdam, Chicago, Lisbon, London, Los Angeles, New York, Phoenix, Portland, OR, Richmond, Toronto and throughout California. She is currently a collaborative partner of Nol Simonse. She has also worked with Susan Rethorst, Stephen Pelton, Sue Roginski, Katie Faulkner, Julie Mayo, Leslie Seiters, Mary Armentrout, Maxine Moerman Dancetheatre, Dandelion Dancetheater and many others. She has been awarded residencies at Djerassi, Ucross and Yaddo, and in 2019, she was a Fulbright Scholar at the Instituto Politécnico de Lisboa, School of Dance in Portugal.

ABOUT ODC THEATER

ODC Theater participates in the creation of new works through commissioning, presenting, mentorship and space access; it develops informed, engaged and committed audiences; and it advocates for the performing arts as an essential component to the region’s economic and cultural development. The Theater is the site of over 120 performances a year involving nearly 1,000 local, regional, national and international artists.

Since 1976, ODC Theater has been the mobilizing force behind countless San Francisco artists and the foothold for national and international touring artists seeking debut in the Bay Area. The Theater, founded by Brenda Way and currently under the creative direction of Chloë Zimberg, has earned its place as a cultural incubator by dedicating itself to creative change-makers, those leaders who give the Bay Area its unmistakable definition and flare. Nationally known artists Spaulding Gray, Diamanda Galas, Bill T. Jones, Eiko & Koma, Ronald K. Brown/EVIDENCE, Karole Armitage, Sarah Michelson, Brian Brooks and John Heginbotham are among those whose first San Francisco appearance occurred at ODC Theater. For more information about ODC Theater and all its programs visit www.odc.dance.

FACT SHEET

WHAT:

ODC Theater presents **Funsch Dance Experience** in the world premiere of **EPOCH**.

Choreographer: **Christy Funsch**

Choreographic partners: **Maurya Kerr and Coral Martin**

Dancers: **Shareen DeRyan, Aura Fischbeck, Emily Hansel, Chinchin Hsu, Zoe Huey, Hien Huynh, Jenna Marie, Jennifer Minore, Nadia Oka, Jennifer Perfilio, Phoenicia Pettyjohn, Nol Simonse, Victor Talledos, Lisa Townsend and Nina Wu**

Composer/Musician: **Cheryl Leonard**

Lighting Designer: **Danielle Ferguson**

Video Designer: **Leo Moring**

WHEN:

October 2

Saturday, **10 a.m. - 10 p.m.** PT

WHERE:

ODC Theater

3153 17th Street

San Francisco, CA 94110

Digital simulcast available through odc.dance/EPOCH.

TICKETS:

In-person performance: **\$15 - \$75**. *Proof of full vaccination is required for in-person attendance.*

Digital streaming access: **\$10 - \$75**.

Fall Season digital subscriptions: **\$70 (\$40 early bird)**.

To purchase tickets, call **415-863-9834**. Or online visit odc.dance/EPOCH or odc.dance/tickets.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

odc.dance

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