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ODC THEATER PRESENTS **SARA SHELTON MANN**  
IN THE WORLD PREMIERE OF ***ECHO / RIDING THE RAPIDS***

**October 11 - 13, 2018**



*Jesse Zaritt photographed by Robbie Sweeny.*

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

SAN FRANCISCO, CA, August 27, 2018 – ODC Theater is proud to present **Sara Shelton Mann** in the world premiere of ***ECHO / RIDING THE RAPIDS***, an evening-length investigation into the world of sound, October 11 – 13. A towering figure on the Bay Area’s interdisciplinary performance scene since the 1980s, Mann developed *ECHO* in collaboration with **Anya Cloud**, **Jesse Zaritt** and composer **Pamela Z**, with additional performances by **Abby Crain** and **Jesse Hewit**. *ECHO* runs Thursday to Saturday at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$30, and may be purchased online at [odc.dance/tickets](http://odc.dance/tickets) or by phone at 415-863-9834.

A protégé of Alwin Nikolais and Murray Louis in New York City, Mann began work as a choreographer, performer and teacher in 1967. She moved to San Francisco in 1979, and within a few years launched Contraband, a performance group that became legendary for its groundbreaking work combining principles of contact improvisation, systems of the body and spiritual practice into a unified system of research. Since then she’s earned a raft of awards and honors including a Guggenheim Fellowship, seven Izzie Dance Awards and a Foundation for Contemporary Arts Award, among many others.

Mann's work on *ECHO* began in early 2018 as a conversation with Jesse Zaritt, a Brooklyn-based dance artist who has performed with Shen Wei Dance Arts Company, Inbal Pinto Dance Company, as well as Netta Yerushalmy and Faye Driscoll. Zaritt is currently an Assistant Professor at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia.

Composer and performer Pamela Z, a pioneer of live digital looping techniques, next joined the project, followed by Anya Cloud, a dancer and choreographer whose work has been presented at La MaMa, Movement Research at the Judson Church and REDCAT, among others. She currently teaches at California State University San Marcos. Both Cloud and Zaritt have studied with Mann for years. *ECHO* is Pamela Z's first collaboration with Mann.

Early work-in-progress iterations of *ECHO* took place at the School for Contemporary Dance and Thought in Northampton, Massachusetts; Green Street Studios in Boston; the Joe Goode Annex in San Francisco; and Dock'11 in Berlin, Germany.

For the world premiere at ODC Theater, Abby Crain and Jesse Hewit will join the ensemble. Crain and Hewit, both local to the Bay Area, share intersecting histories of collaboration with one other and with Mann, as well as distinguished bodies of work through their own performance vehicles.

"With *ECHO* I've been interested to explore the relationships between sonic-spatial dimensions, internal and external," said Mann. "I'm curious to know where sounds come from, whether they're real (external) or imaginary (internal). But rooms are like ghosts, filled with the information of their previous occupants, and I've discovered that if I allow myself, I can tune into older noises, too."

"It follows that *ECHO* was conceived from the beginning as a site-specific project, and at each stop along its development my collaborators and I have had to respond to the specific information in the room. The premiere at ODC Theater will be no different."

Mann notes that echoes also figure as a visual motif throughout the work: "For props we're using feathers, flowers and baking soda. Why? Because they are echoes of my own inspiration! I've been using them for years."

Mann will teach a **free workshop** incorporating chi practices, writing and material from *ECHO* on Saturday, October 13 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. in ODC Theater. This workshop is part of the ODC Theater Institute series of shared practice sessions with season artists. To RSVP, email [theater@odc.dance](mailto:theater@odc.dance).

For more information, visit [odc.dance/ECHO](http://odc.dance/ECHO).

*ECHO* is supported by the Kenneth Rainin Foundation, San Francisco Arts Commission and Zellerbach Family Foundation.

## **ABOUT SARA SHELTON MANN**

Sara Shelton Mann has been a choreographer, performer and teacher since 1967. She was a protégé of Alwin Nikolais and Murray Louis in New York City before moving to Canada where she met Andrew Harwood and fell in love with contact improvisation.

In 1979 she moved to San Francisco to work with Mangrove, now Mixed Bag Productions, for which she serves as artistic director. One of its early manifestations was the company Contraband, launched as a performance group and research ground combining the principles of contact, systems of the body and spiritual practice into a unified system of research.

Among her awards are a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship, seven Izzie Dance Awards, including a special achievement award for *erasing time: celebrating 30 years a radical dance legend* (Sara Shelton Mann with David Szlasa and Norman Rutherford), Djerassi Artist in Residence Awards, Headlands Center for the Arts Residency 2016, Lifetime Achievement *San Francisco Bay Guardian* Award, 10 Women Who Made a Difference and a Foundation for Contemporary Arts Grants to Artists award (2016).

Her Movement Alchemy training is an ongoing teaching project and is influenced by certifications and studies in the metaphysical and healing traditions. Mann's performance work is a platform for collaboration and research in consciousness.

## **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 direction of Julie Potter, 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](http://www.odc.dance).

## FACT SHEET

### **WHAT:**

ODC Theater presents *ECHO / Riding the Rapids*, an investigation into the world of sound directed by **Sara Shelton Mann**, in collaboration with **Anya Cloud, Abby Crain, Jesse Hewit** and **Jesse Zaritt**, with live and recorded music by **Pamela Z.**

### **WHEN:**

**October 11 - 13, 2018**

Thursday - Saturday at **8 p.m.**

### **WHERE:**

**ODC Theater**

3153 17th Street

San Francisco, CA 94110

### **TICKETS:**

**\$30**

To purchase tickets call **415-863-9834**. Or online visit [odc.dance/tickets](http://odc.dance/tickets).

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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

For all press inquiries please contact John Hill at [johnhillpr@gmail.com](mailto:johnhillpr@gmail.com).