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ODC THEATER ANNOUNCES ITS 2018 SEASON



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SAN FRANCISCO, CA, December 21, 2017 – ODC, the most active center for contemporary dance on the West Coast, has announced its **2018 Theater Season**, a program demonstrating the organization’s commitment to fostering new performance and to introducing the work of esteemed artists from across the globe to new audiences.

Highlights next year include world premieres by **Sara Shelton Mann**, **Bobbi Jene Smith**, **Catherine Galasso**, **Byb Chanel Bibene**, **Liss Fain**, **Christy Funsch**, **Embodiment Project**, **Gerald Casel**, **Maurya Kerr** and **Hope Mohr**. The Theater will also present West Coast premieres by touring artists **Cori Olinghouse** making her Bay Area debut, **Netta Yerushalmy** and **Yara Travieso**, and the Bay Area debut of Toronto-based artist **Belinda McGuire**.

In addition, ODC Theater is proud to be a part of **Limited Edition: Forward Looking Lineages**, a partnership initiated by Open Space, SFMOMA’s contemporary arts and culture platform, along with

CounterPulse, The Lab, Performance at SFMOMA and Z Space. Through *Limited Edition*, the partner organizations will present a series of interdisciplinary events throughout the winter exploring questions of ownership, legacy, the authentic and the appropriated in contemporary performance.

ODC Theater's contribution to the series begins with a public program with Cori Olinghouse on February 14 hosted by Open Space Editor-in-Chief **Claudia La Rocco** and ODC Theater Artistic Director **Julie Potter**. Highlighted performances to follow include the presentation of Olinghouse in the West Coast premiere of *Grandma*, February 15 - 17, and Netta Yerushalmy in the West Coast premiere of *Paramodernities*, co-presented by The Bridge Project, February 23 - 24. Workshops will accompany both engagements.

"At ODC Theater, you can see dance just about every week of the year," said Potter. "Coming together at the Theater we can imagine new possibilities, be engaged and challenged, and celebrate along the way. Join us to cultivate this potent space for expressions of the body, connection and reflection. And please do make dance a habit."

A chronological list of ODC Theater's 2018 Season follows. For more information, visit odc.dance.

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ODC/DANCE UNPLUGGED

January 26

Friday @ 7 p.m.

ODC's *Unplugged* series is a recurring platform offering a rare and candid look into the creative process. In this edition, ODC's flagship company, ODC/Dance, will show excerpts of work to be performed during the 2018 *ODC/Dance Around Town* season.

Founded in 1971 by Artistic Director **Brenda Way**, ODC/Dance was one of the first American companies to incorporate a postmodern sensibility, with an appreciation for pedestrian movement, into a virtuosic contemporary dance technique, and to commit major resources to interdisciplinary collaboration and musical commissions for the repertory.

CORI OLINGHOUSE

Grandma (West Coast premiere)

February 15 - 17

Thursday – Saturday @ 8 p.m.

Born and raised in San Diego, Cori Olinghouse is a choreographer, curator and archivist based in Brooklyn, best known for *Ghost Lines*, which premiered in New York in 2013. Her newest work, titled *Grandma*, premiered this month at Gibney Dance in New York, and will make its West Coast premiere at ODC Theater in February. Set in an American landscape of Twinkies and Wonderbread, *Grandma* excavates the effects of television, the media and dark familial pasts as portals to parody American consumption practices. Featured characters include "Cheez Doodles, cans of Spam, Cheese Whiz, Hostess Cupcakes and a guest appearance by the famous Orange Soda, Fizzy Fizzy."

Olinghouse danced for the Trisha Brown Dance Company from 2002-2006, and has served as archive director since 2009. Over the past ten years, in critical examination of the postmodern aesthetic of her training, she has studied closely with theatrical clown and actor Bill Irwin, and legendary voguers Archie Burnett, Benny Ninja and Javier Ninja.

NETTA YERUSHALMY

Paramodernities (West Coast premiere)

February 23 – 24

Friday – Saturday @ 8 p.m.

Acclaimed for her “fierce choreographic imagination” (*The New York Times*), Netta Yerushalmy is an award-winning artist based in New York since 2000. For the past five years, she has been engaged in the creation of *Paramodernities*, a seven-part cycle deconstructing landmark works from the 20th century. Each installment features contributions by scholars who situate the iconic works and artists within the larger project of Modernism.

For ODC, in a co-presentation with Hope Mohr Dance’s Bridge Project, Yerushalmy will stage installments devoted to Vaslav Nijinsky, Alvin Ailey and Merce Cunningham. The last of these, titled ***Rainforest, Sounddance, Points In Space, Beach Birds, Ocean***, is a West Coast premiere. The completed seven-party cycle will premiere next summer at Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival.

LISS FAIN DANCE

I Don’t Know and I Never Will (world premiere)

March 1 – 3

Thursday – Saturday @ 8 p.m.

For almost a decade, Liss Fain Dance has been making performance installations in which the audience is free to move about the same space as the dancers. Her work is always interested in the play of relationships between text, movement, physical environment and perspective. Her newest evening-length work, a co-presentation with ODC Theater, is titled *I Don’t Know and I Never Will*. In it Fain draws on the handwritten letters she received in her past to explore “the intimacy, solitude and connection” of letter writing. *I Don’t Know* features set and lighting design by **Matthew Antaky** and a commissioned score by percussionist **Jordan Glenn**.

FUNSCH DANCE EXPERIENCE

Mother Sister Daughter (world premiere)

April 5 - 7

Thursday - Saturday @ 8 p.m.

Christy Funsch, an East Coast transplant to the Bay Area, celebrates the 15th anniversary of her eponymous company in the world premiere of *Mother Sister Daughter*. Conceived for an ensemble of dancers age 40 and older, *Mother Sister Daughter* harnesses the movement histories of its cast to pay tribute to the California Dancing Girls, one of the first all-women dance companies based in San Francisco in the 1910s. The work features an original score by composer **Gretchen Jude**. *Mother Sister Daughter* is co-presented by ODC Theater.

WALKING DISTANCE DANCE FESTIVAL

May 15 - 20

ODC Theater's signature dance festival returns for six days of live performance by artists from around the U.S. and Canada. New York-based filmmaker and choreographer **Yara Travieso** kicks off the event with the West Coast premiere of *La Medea*, a musical reimagining of Euripides' violent tragedy in the style of a Latin-disco-pop variety show, screened with live musical accompaniment by **Jason and the Argonauts**.

The following two evenings will showcase the world premiere of *Nkinsi Nkondi, A Divine Sculpture from Central Africa*, conceived and directed by **Byb Chanel Bibene**. An award-winning contemporary dance artist from the Republic of the Congo, Bibene moved to San Francisco in 2009 and has worked with Paco Gomes, Amara Tabor-Smith, Sherwood Chen and Joanna Haigood, among others. Bibene is currently the artistic director of **Kiandanda Dance Theater**.

Concluding the festival are two evenings of performance including free improvisers and solos danced by Toronto-based artist **Belinda McGuire** in her Bay Area debut.

Dancers **Rashaun Mitchell** and **Silas Riener** join saxophonist **Phillip Greenlief**, koto player **Shoko Hikage**, and poet, critic and editor **Claudia La Rocco** in a celebration of their diverse cultures with no plan or pre-arranged agreements. "It takes years of hard work to be prepared to live fearlessly in this manner, and the artists on display this evening have been living in this practice for decades," said Greenlief, who instigated the collaboration.

McGuire has danced with The José Limón Dance Company, Gallim Dance, Doug Varone and Dancers, and The Canadian Contemporary Dance Theatre. In addition to performing primarily solo works under the banner of **Belinda McGuire Dance Projects**, she continues to teach and choreograph as a guest artist for The Limón Institute, New York University/Tisch and The Juilliard School, among others. For ODC Theater, she will perform two solo dances, *Anthem for the Living*, choreographed by **Sharon Moore**, and *The Eight Propositions*, created collaboratively by the Amsterdam duo **Emio Greco** and **Pieter C. Scholten** in collaboration with McGuire.

RESIDENT ARTIST COMMISSIONS

June 7 – 23

ODC's choreographic residencies represent a rare longitudinal commitment – three years in length – and offer crucial development opportunities to mid-career artists including artistic mentorship and critical feedback, fully subsidized rehearsal space, administrative support and mentoring, the commission of a new work to premiere at ODC Theater, as well as a fully subsidized technical residency.

The cohort of resident artists that entered in 2015 include **Gerald Casel**, **Maurya Kerr**, **Nicole Klaymoon**, and the team of **Sheldon B. Smith** and **Lisa Wymore**. Smith and Wymore's commissioned work premiered earlier this month. The remaining artists will present evening-length works created during their residencies in June 2018.

Founded by Klaymoon in 2008, **Embodiment Project** is a San Francisco-based street dance theater company whose last show presented at ODC Theater, *Seed Language*, about state-sponsored violence

and police brutality, earned rave reviews and a sold-out run. Her newest project, to premiere **June 7 – 10**, has received developmental support from Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, the Headlands Center for the Arts and the Gerbode and Hewlett Foundation.

'Bessie' award winning dancer, Gerald Casel has danced in the companies of Michael Clark, Sungsoo Ahn, Stanley Love, Zvi Gotheiner, Russell Dumas, the Metropolitan Opera Ballet, Lar Lubovitch and Stephen Petronio. He currently directs his own company, **GERALDCASELDANCE**, from the perch of the University of California-Santa Cruz where he is an assistant professor of dance. From **June 13 – 15**, ODC Theater will present the world premiere of ***Cover Your Mouth When You Smile***, a collaboration with **Na-ye Kim** and **Peiling Kao** that explores “the model minority myth, racial melancholia, and the concept of mimicry among Asian immigrants.” The evening also includes a preview of ***Not About Race Dance***.

The weekend of **June 21 – 23**, ODC Theater will co-present ***kosmos*** created by Maurya Kerr. A former dancer with Alonzo King LINES Ballet, Kerr has been choreographing dance under the company name **tinypistol** since 2011. Her newest work investigates questions of political decay and dystopia, and the proper forms of resistance, uniting bodies in relationship to the land and the sky, to one another and to a better future.

ODC/DANCE

Summer Sampler

July 20 – 21, 27 - 28

Fridays and Saturdays @ 8 p.m.

Delight in the exuberance of summer with a selection of spirited ODC/Dance repertory works.

ODC THEATER UNPLUGGED

August 2

Thursday @ 8 p.m.

ODC's *Unplugged* series is a recurring platform offering a rare and candid look into the creative process. In this edition, **Katie Faulkner** shares excerpts, insights and questions related to the research of her next work to premiere at ODC Theater in 2019. Originally from North Carolina, Faulkner makes dance under the name **little seismic dance company**. She was an artist-in-residence at ODC Theater from 2009 – 2011, and has also received residencies from the Shawl-Anderson Dance Center, the Marin Headlands Center for the Arts, the Djerassi Resident Artist Program, the Rauschenberg Residency and the Maggie Allesee National Center for Choreography.

HOPE MOHR DANCE

11th Home Season (world premiere)

October 4 – 6

Thursday – Saturday @ 8 p.m.

Hope Mohr Dance, a Resident Company at ODC Theater, recently "marked a huge milestone: a decade of creative collaboration and boundary pushing art making" (*San Francisco Arts Monthly*). For the company's *11th Home Season*, Artistic Director **Hope Mohr** will premiere a new work performed in the round exploring fragment, interruption, rhythm and faulty archives. Inspired by and featuring text from

Anne Carson's *If not, Winter*, the co-presentation with ODC Theater also includes contributions from sound designer **Theodore Hulsker**, visual designer **Joan Osato** and costume designer **Tiffany Amundson**.

SARA SHELTON MANN

Echo / riding the rapids (world premiere)

October 11 – 13

Thursday – Saturday @ 8 p.m.

Performer and director Sara Shelton Mann founded the legendary company Contraband (1984-1996), earning numerous awards and distinctions including a Guggenheim Fellowship, seven Isadora Duncan Dance Awards and a Foundation for Contemporary Arts Award. She considers her performance a platform for collaboration and research in consciousness, and in the metaphysical and healing traditions.

For ODC Theater next fall, Mann has invited artists **Anya Cloud**, **Jesse Hewitt**, **Pamela Z** and **Jesse Zaritt** to collaborate on the world premiere of *Echo / riding the rapids*, an investigation into the world of sound. “What is an echo that resounds from the walls?” asks Mann. “Is it an invitation to inhabit a spacial interium, the terrain between viewer, performer, composer and space?”

BOBBI JENE SMITH & KEIR GOGWILT

With Care (world premiere)

November 1 – 3

Thursday – Saturday @ 8 p.m.

Bobbi Jene Smith, a former member of Batsheva Dance Company from 2005 to 2014, and violinist and scholar Keir GoGwilt, first collaborated on *A Study on Effort*, which showed in San Francisco this past summer in a co-presentation with ODC Theater and the San Francisco Jewish Film Festival. Continuing the cross-disciplinary work of *A Study on Effort*, Smith and GoGwilt’s next project explores ideas of care and its etymological cognate, accuracy, through music, dance and dialogue.

With Care features a commissioned score by **Matthew Aucoin**. Additional collaborators include dancer **Or Meir Schraiber** and violinist **Miranda Cuckson**. *With Care* was co-commissioned by ODC Theater and American Modern Opera Company.

ODC/DANCE UNPLUGGED

November 2

Friday @ 8 p.m.

Studio B, ODC Dance Commons

Step into the rehearsal studio with ODC/Dance for a behind-the-scenes look into the artistic process of an exciting collaboration with ODC Resident Choreographer **Kate Weare** and ODC Founder and Artistic Director Brenda Way.

CATHERINE GALASSO

Of Iron and Diamonds (world premiere)

December 6 – 8

Thursday – Saturday @ 8 p.m.

Bay Area audiences will remember Catherine Galasso's 2011 work, *Bring On The Lumière!*, which took inspiration from one of the earliest chapters in the history of cinema. Galasso, now based in New York, has earned acclaim for her collaboration with Andy de Groat, *get dancing*, and her revival of Jim Neu's *The Floatones*. ODC Theater is pleased now to welcome the former resident artist's return with the world premiere of *Of Iron and Diamonds*, part of a multi-chapter performance work based on Boccaccio's 14th-century book of tales, *The Decameron*.

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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.

FACT SHEET

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Rashaun Mitchell, Silas Riener, Phillip Greenlief, Shoko Hikage & Claudia La Rocco

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ODC Theater Unplugged featuring Katie Faulkner

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Sara Shelton Mann (*world premiere*)

October 11 – 13

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November 1 – 3

Catherine Galasso (*world premiere*)

December 6 – 8

WHERE:

ODC Theater

3153 17th Street
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TICKETS:

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Please visit **odc.dance**.

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