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ODC THEATER ANNOUNCES ITS 2023/24 SEASON

Guest Curators for the new season included Donald Byrd, Eric Garcia, Audrey Johnson, Maurya Kerr, Leyya Mona Tawil and Rosanna Tavarez



odc.dance/theater

SAN FRANCISCO, CA, December 12, 2022 – ODC Theater, part of the most active center for contemporary dance on the West Coast, has announced its 2023/24 Season with a raft of performances by Bay Area and touring artists. Highlights of the new season include the return in August of **State of Play**, the Theater's signature summer dance festival, with 12 different works on view, and the regional debut of artists including **Kayla Farrish** and **Kensaku Shinohara**.

In planning next year's season, ODC Theater invited six guest artists to assist in curation. **Maurya Kerr** joined returning guest artist **Leyya Mona Tawil** in curating State of Play as well as two standalone

projects, and **Donald Byrd, Eric Garcia, Audrey Johnson** and **Rosanna Tavarez** curated the Theater's **Rentals Discount Initiative**, offering 17 weeks of subsidized space for work-in-progress development, public presentation or both.

"In selecting the six guest curators, we imagined how ODC Theater might serve as an instrument of equity that celebrates a variety of artistic voices and perspectives," said ODC Theater Creative Director **Chloë L. Zimberg**. "All of the guest curators possess an eye for rigor, integrity, playfulness and care – each in their own wonderfully unique ways."

Kerr, a former ODC Theater Resident Artist, is the artistic director of tinypistol, a contemporary dance company. She is also a critically acclaimed poet. Over a span of 12 years earlier in her career she danced with Alonzo King LINES Ballet. Tawil is the founding director of Arab.AMP and the Temescal Art Center in Oakland, California. Her work in self-consciously hybrid performance has been performed internationally – from Finland and the United Kingdom to the United Arab Emirates – and across the United States.

"Our hope is to help usher in some new possibilities for dance – dance that sits and stares back at you, lays claim, folds you into its arms, demands, incites and gives unabashedly," said Kerr and Tawil in a joint statement. "We found our cohort."

Several highlights of the Theater's upcoming season will take place in February and March 2024. ODC Theater is planning five weeks of performance with works by the duo of **Rachael Lincoln** and **Leslie Seiters**, **Fanny Ara**, the **Degenerate Art Ensemble**, **Adrienne Westwood** and **Angélica Negrón**, as well as Kayla Farrish.

The artists selected by Byrd, Garcia, Johnson and Tavarez for participation in next year's Rentals Discount Initiative include **Andrew Pearson, Chuck Wilt, Charles Slender-White, Edgar Lepe** and **Robert Lowman**, **Erin Yen, Jamaica Itule-Simmons, James Graham, Julie Crothers, Katerina Eng Beckman, Kendra Barnes, Liv Schaffer, Megan Lowe** and **Silk Worm**.

Enriching the calendar of live performances will be a number of periodic, free events throughout the year. Starting in February, the first Friday of each month will feature regular "Lobby Nights," with a rotating exhibit of visual art, live performance "open mics," drinks and snacks. Additional events include workshops, masterclasses, movie nights, family movie matinees and dance parties.

The chronological list which follows covers the Theater's featured presentations as well as all rentals, including those artists or groups who have chosen not to have a public showing. The Fact Sheet at the end includes only ticketed events, which will go on sale early next year. For more information, visit **odc.dance/theater**.

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PHILHARMONIA BAROQUE ORCHESTRA & CHORALE
PBO Sessions: *The Artist as Human*
February 16 – 17, 2023

Singer **Nola Richardson**, Philharmonia Baroque Creative Partner **Davóne Tines** and Conductor **David Belkovski** explore their personal connections to the music and art they make through the lenses of gender, race and sexuality. The artists will let audiences in on the long-term, iterative process to excavate these themes through old and new music from Henry Purcell, Katherine Balch, as well as music by Belkovski, himself, among others.

LIV SCHAFFER & THE DANCE GENERATORS

Liv Schaffer & the Dance Generators: in process

March 3 – 5, 2023

Dance Generators, an intergenerational dance company housed at the University of San Francisco, brings together dance artists ranging in age from 17 to 90 years old for collaborative and creative activity that bridges generational divides, shatters stereotypes about aging, and amplifies opportunity for aging artists. The company's current project is a devised dance work that "reorganizes traditional family paradigms in an effort to spark co-generational social healing."

ALAYO DANCE COMPANY

Mouth of a Shark (world premiere)

March 31 – April 2, 2023

In the world premiere of *Mouth of a Shark*, choreographer **Ramón Ramos Alayo** explores his extensive knowledge of Afro-Cuban dance through an ensemble of 10 movement collaborators. Created for the 17th annual CubaCaribe Festival of Dance and Music, *Mouth of a Shark* was inspired in part by Somali poet Warsan Shire's poem "Home," a reflection on the double lives of immigrants — "people who create a new life in a new world but who also carry their homeland in their hearts forever."

UNA PRODUCTIONS

Grass is Green (Bay Area premiere)

April 21 – 23, 2023

Founded in New York in 2013 by former ODC Dance Jam member **Chuck Wilt**, UNA Productions (formerly UNA Projects) returns to ODC Theater in the Bay Area premiere of *Grass is Green*. Featuring a cast of 10 core performers and an additional ensemble of pre-professional dancers, with live musical accompaniment and drag performance, "*Grass is Green* considers cycles of destruction and rebirth both within humanity and the land we are a part of," said Wilt. "The work embodies...representations of queer love and intimacy, and moments of communal joy, grief and connectivity."

KENDRA KIMBROUGH DANCE ENSEMBLE

The Golden Thread (world premiere)

April 28 – 30, 2023

Under the direction of **Kendra Kimbrough Barnes** and **Yeni Lucero**, the Kendra Kimbrough Barnes Ensemble has been bridging diverse cultures and communities through dance for more than 25 years. Next year the company will premiere *The Golden Thread*, based on a commissioned fairy tale by **Delina Patrice Brooks**. According to the story's legend, "momentum" is a sought-after and much guarded skill.

The cast of *The Golden Thread* will take the audience on a journey across multiple worlds where different tempos and timings serve distinct purposes.

ODC SCHOOL

Youth & Teen Spring Showcase

May 13 – 15, 2023

ODC School's "Step Onstage" class culminates in a performance by students steeped in the technical and artistic components of stagecraft. The Youth & Teen Program's Spring Showcase also includes an array of shorter works by students from other classes, from Pre-Ballet to Tap to "Dance Around the World."

DRAGONS DANCE

We Aren't Alone Here (world premiere)

May 19 – 21, 2023

We Aren't Alone Here, is a program of four short works featuring New York-based company **TWOINSEVENBILLION**, the duo of **Charmaine Butcher** and **Babatunji Johnson**, independent artist **Dominique Hargrove**, as well as **Erin Yen**, founder of Dragons Dance, the instigator and organizer of this event.

ENEMY

ENEMY SHOW (world premiere)

June 2 – 4, 2023

ENEMY is directed by **Isaac Bates-Vinueza**. Based in the Bay Area, the company is committed to making original, genre-defying work and cultivating the voices of today's youngest and most promising artists.

ANDREW PEARSON

Abbale: A Dance-Theater Memoir (Bay Area premiere)

June 15 – 18, 2023

Known for his "playfully gay" brand of dance theater, Andrew Pearson has been hailed as "one of L.A.'s finest dance artists" (*L.A. Dance Chronicle*), having collaborated with Donald McKayle, Yuval Sharon, L.A. Contemporary Dance Company, MOCA and the L.A. Philharmonic. Pearson's newest work, *Abbale*, weaves together three real-life fatherly relationships into a theatrical dance-memoir that touches on themes of disability, the Jewish Israeli immigrant experience and same-sex love.

JULIE CROTHERS

Are You There God? It's Me, Jules

June 23 – 25, 2023

Julie Crothers is a white, queer, disabled artist based in Berkeley. Her solo choreographic work has been presented on stages throughout the Bay Area and beyond, including CHOPSHOP Dance Festival and the International Women in Dance Leadership Conference. Inspired by Crothers' experience growing up in a conservative Christian church in Tennessee, *Are You There God? It's me, Jules* is "a coming-out story of sorts and a grand celebration of all things bright, bold and gay."

SFDANCEWORKS

Season Six

June 30 – July 2, 2023

Under the direction of former San Francisco Ballet soloist **Dana Genshaft**, SFDanceworks is a contemporary repertory dance company dedicated to presenting the best of the past, present and future of dance. The company was founded by **James Sofranko** in 2014, and presented its inaugural season at ODC Theater in 2016. SFDanceworks engages world-class dancers performing choreography from dance masters as well as commissioned work from emerging choreographers.

ODC/DANCE

Summer Sampler

July 20 – 22, 2023

Delight in the exuberance of summer with a selection of ODC/Dance repertory works performed in the company's intimate home space.

AMY SEIWERT'S IMAGERY

SKETCH 13 (world premiere)

July 28 – 30, 2023

Amy Seiwert's Imagery, a contemporary ballet company in San Francisco, explodes preconceptions of what ballet is and can be. Imagery drives ballet's evolution by nurturing responsible environments for creative risk-taking, partnering with diverse collaborators, and mentoring emerging leaders in the field. Next summer the company returns to ODC Theater in the 13th edition of its celebrated *SKETCH* series.

STATE OF PLAY

August 3 – 13, 2023

ODC Theater's signature summer dance festival returns next August with two weeks of activities across ODC's campus, highlighting the interplay of works by artists at different stages of their careers. Audiences will have the opportunity to witness performances at every stage of development, from early works-in-progress to fully staged evening-length works.

The participating artists and companies hail from around the country including several based in Los Angeles: **Ajani Brannum**, **Baye & Asa**, **Kensaku Shinohara**, and **Marissa Brown** who also divides her time in Brooklyn, NY. Artists **Yanira Castro** and **Jerron Herman** are based in New York. **DANDY**, the artistic partnership of **David Rue** and **Randy Ford**, is based in Seattle. And rounding out the program are Bay Area-based artists **Audrey Johnson**, **Gizeh Muñiz Vengel**, **Indira Allegra**, **pateldanceworks** and **Tableau Stations**.

FACT/SF

FACT/SF Summer Dance Festival

August 18 – 20, 25 – 27, 2023

FACT/SF is a San Francisco-based contemporary dance company, founded in 2008 by **Charles Slender-White** as a platform for organizing collaborators, building community and creating choreography. FACT/SF has premiered 42 works, with tours throughout the U.S., Russia, as well as Serbia, Bulgaria, Croatia and Macedonia. Since 2014, FACT/SF's "Fieldwork" programs have provided direct support and material resources to 51 contemporary dance artists from the Bay Area and beyond.

MEGAN LOWE DANCES

Piece of Peace: Gathering (world premiere)

September 2 – 3, 8 – 9, 2023

With an affinity for dynamic places and partners, Megan Lowe Dances creates works with a "well-hewn emotional arc, a strong sense of form and meaningful variation, and terrific organic use of the whole theater space" (*San Francisco Chronicle*). *Piece of Peace: Gathering* expands upon the work the company showed at this year's State of Play festival. It is a dance theater project that explores mixed-race Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) experiences, with a team composed of AAPI artists. Through text, song and dance, the performers present "pieces of fractured selves in support of wholeness...co-creating a supportive environment for connection among each other that radiates out into our communities."

OTHER ODE & RISE ARTS

In Conversation

September 15 – 17, 2023

Other Ode & Rise Arts is a new collaborative project under the direction of dance artists **Katerina Eng Beckman**, **Sarah Chou** and **Lindsay Clipner**.

CHITRESH DAS INSTITUTE

Invoking the River

September 29 – October 1, 2023

ODC Home Company the Chitresh Das Institute, led by Artistic Director **Charlotte Moraga**, brings to the stage performances exploring the depth and versatility of North Indian classical kathak dance and music. In 2023, the company will reprise the work they premiered at ODC this year, *Invoking the River*, together with a shorter new work.

KINETECH ARTS

Aurum (world premiere)

October 13 – 15, 2023

Founded in San Francisco by **Daiane Lopes da Silva** and **Weidong Yang**, ODC Home Company Kinetech Arts works at the intersection of dance, science and technology to create innovative and socially responsible performances. Next year the company will premiere *Aurum*, a work inspired by San Francisco's history of boom and bust from the Gold Rush of the 19th century to the current high-tech frenzy. In addition to da Silva and Yang, lead artists on *Aurum* include sound designer **Patricia Alessandrini** and visual designer **Michael Koehle**.

ARS MINERVA

TBD

October 20 – 22, 2023

Ars Minerva is a celebrated young company devoted to resurrecting forgotten operas from the Italian Baroque. Led by singer and stage director **Céline Ricci**, the company has presented modern world premieres of six long-forgotten operas. Next year's production will be announced in early 2023.

SMALL ART MUSIC PROJECTS

The Crushing Spiral Ensemble

October 29, 2023

Since 2005, Small Art Music Projects has presented concerts of innovative new music featuring partner ensembles led by Artistic Director **Matt Small**. The Crushing Spiral Ensemble includes Small (bass / composer), **Steve Blum** (piano), **Michael Pinkham** (drums), **Steve Adams** (sax), **Chris Grady** (trumpet) and **Sheldon Brown** (sax).

JAMES GRAHAM DANCE THEATRE

Social Males (world premiere)

November 3 – 5, 2023

James Graham is an Izzie Award-winning dancer who has performed with Joe Goode, Hope Mohr, Lizz Roman and Tino Sehgal, among many others. Through James Graham Dance Theatre, Graham develops his own choreographic and theatrical ideas informed by his training as a certified Gaga instructor and his self-identification as a queer man. Next year, the company returns to ODC in the world premiere of *Social Males*, a piece developed in part through a work-in-progress residency at the 2022 State of Play festival. *Social Males* examines the stories and experiences of men, both those assigned male at birth and trans men. Employing a wide range of tools, *Social Males* aims to plumb the depths of the current crisis of masculinity with the goal of healing the cycle of violence and emotional isolation that troubles so much of the population today.

OCEÁNICA BALLET

Sleepy Hollow & Lupita (world premiere)

November 10 – 12, 2023

Founded by **Edgar Lepe** and **Robert Burns Lowman** in 2021, Oceánica Ballet fuses ballet with various styles including contemporary, modern, jazz and folklorico. The South San Francisco-based company will present a double bill of one-act narrative ballets featuring Lepe's *Lupita*, an homage to the choreographer's childhood in Mexico, and Lowman's *Sleepy Hollow*, based on Washington Irving's gothic tale from 1819.

SILK WORM

In residence November 28 – December 3, 2023

Silk Worm is an actor and drag artist. Together with her drag mother, **VivvyAnne ForeverMORE**, Worm is developing an evening of experimental solos. Worm's will explore the experience of changing sex and

navigating the modern healthcare system. ForeverMORE's project delves into the theory of object oriented ontology, imagining the lives of supposedly inanimate objects outside of their use by humans.

ODC SCHOOL

Global Dance Passport

December 9 – 10, 2023

Global Dance Passport is the culmination of 12-week workshops at ODC School in movement styles as varied as samba, tap, flamenco, belly dance and Afro-Peruvian. Workshop participants perform a piece of original choreography between three and seven minutes at ODC Theater. The movement styles on view vary depending on the workshops offered each season.

RACHAEL LINCOLN AND LESLIE SEITERS

Long Playing

February 16 – 18, 2024

For 25 years, Rachael Lincoln and Leslie Seiters have been performing duets together on stages from Portugal and Poland to Indonesia and across the United States. *Long Playing* is the culmination of what the artists call an "accidental trilogy," that began in 2006 with *attic an exit*, followed in 2013 with *People Like You*. In *Long Playing*, Lincoln and Seiters oscillate between action that is explicit and demanding, and a receptive stance that is patient, wide and behind-the-scenes.

FANNY ARA

***Lilith* (world premiere)**

February 23 – 25, 2024

Fanny Ara is an award-winning flamenco choreographer, performer and instructor based in the Bay Area. In 2024, she returns to ODC Theater with a work reflecting on the journey of Lilith, "a female symbol of independence, freedom and control over one's destiny." In *Lilith*, Ara exposes the weight of chains she once had to carry, the ones that were self-inflicted as well as those imposed by the expectations of others. She then takes us on a journey of her fight toward growth, acceptance and liberation.

KAYLA FARRISH / DECENT STRUCTURES ARTS

***Put Away the Fire, dear* (world premiere)**

March 8 – 10, 2024

Kayla Farrish is a New York-based director with a vision for intimate storytelling. Her company, Decent Structures Arts, combines filmmaking, dance theater and original sound design. *The New York Times* named Farrish a "Breakout Star of 2021," and *Dance Magazine* named her one of nine "top screen dance makers to watch." *Put Away the Fire, dear* is a new evening-length work that dreams in archetypes of Old Hollywood and American cinema, revamped and remixed for live performance in group work.

DEGENERATE ART ENSEMBLE

***Skeleton Flower* (Bay Area premiere)**

March 15 – 17, 2024

Degenerate Art Ensemble makes work inspired by punk, protest, comics, nightmares and fairy tales driven by the power of live music and the company's signature style of visceral movement theater and dance. Highlights of the group's recent work include a major exhibition at the Frye Art Museum, a commission by director Robert Wilson to interpret his work *Einstein on the Beach* and collaboration with the Kronos Quartet. For ODC, the company will perform *Skeleton Flower*, a semi-autobiographical exploration of the artists' struggle with identity, depression, childhood trauma and the awakening of personal power. *Skeleton Flower* has traveled from Seattle to Mexico, Denmark and Bulgaria.

ADRIENNE WESTWOOD & ANGÉLICA NEGRÓN

[] (world premiere)

Dates TBA

Based in Brooklyn, New York, choreographer Adrienne Westwood and composer Angélica Negrón have partnered on a project whose very title is unpronounceable: "It's two brackets and the empty space between them, which is very right for a work about the embodiment of something," said Westwood during a work-in-progress showing. Puerto Rican-born composer and multi-instrumentalist Negrón writes music for accordions, robotic instruments, toys and electronics as well as for chamber ensembles, orchestras, choir and film. Together with Westwood, she is exploring "histories of womxn ancestors...private and personal memories of family lore...and womxn's visible/invisible labor, ultimately asking 'What is long ago, but still right now?'"

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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 creative direction of Chloë L. 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 odc.dance/theater.

ODC Theater is generously supported by CalOSBA, The Creative Work Fund, Fleishhacker Foundation, John and Marcia Goldman Foundation, Hearst Foundations, Hellman Foundation, William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, Sam Mazza Foundation, Kenneth Rainin Foundation, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, San Francisco Grants for the Arts, Phyllis C. Wattis Foundation and many individual donors.

FACT SHEET

WHAT:

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March 3 – 4, 2023

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Kendra Kimbrough Dance Ensemble

April 28 - 30, 2023

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May 13 – 15, 2023

Dragons Dance

May 19 – 21, 2023

ENEMY

June 2 – 4, 2023

Andrew Pearson

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Julie Crothers

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Adrienne Westwood & Angélica Negrón

Dates TBA

WHERE:

ODC Theater

3153 17th Street

San Francisco, CA 94110

TICKETS:

Tickets will go on sale early next year. For reservations visit **odc.dance/tickets** or call the ODC Theater box office at **415-863-9834**.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

odc.dance/theater

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