



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Media Contact: John Hill
john@johnhillpr.com
510.435.7128

ODC THEATER ANNOUNCES ITS 2024 SEASON



Degenerate Art Ensemble's Crow Nishimura. Photo by Steven Miller and Joshua Kohl.

odc.dance/theater

SAN FRANCISCO, CA, February 8, 2024 – ODC Theater, part of the most active center for contemporary dance on the West Coast, has announced its 2024 Season. Under the curation of **Maurya Kerr**, **Leyya Mona Tawil** and **Chloë L. Zimberg**, the 2024 Season will feature four Bay Area or world premieres this winter and 10 new works or works-in-progress at the Theater's annual **State of Play** festival in August.

Highlights during the remainder of the year include **Alayo Dance Company**, **Andrea Rodriguez**, **APulso Dance Project**, **Ars Minerva**, **Ballet22**, **Chitresh Das Dance**, **FACT/SF Summer Dance Festival**, the **Izzie Awards Ceremony**, **Molly** and **Aviva Rose-Williams**, **RAWdance**, **REYES Dance**, the **San Francisco Dance Film Festival**, **seymour::dancecollective**, **Surabhi Bharadwaj**, **Theatre Flamenco of San Francisco** and not least of all ODC's flagship dance company, **ODC/Dance**.

“As Resident Curator, I have enjoyed the opportunity to take a longer view of the Theater’s programming, helping to support deeper relationships between artists,” said Kerr. “For example, this year **Audrey Johnson** will return in August. She showed an early work-in-progress at last year’s State of Play festival; this year she’ll share the work at a later stage in its development.”

“The Theater’s multi-curator platform for 2024 also included the contributions of **Gabriel Christian, Zaquia Mahler-Salinas, Hope Mohr** and **Bhumi Patel**,” said Zimberg. “These four artists were chosen to review applications within the Theater’s Rental Discount Initiative, offering 50% to 100% off the rental rate.”

Awardees of this year’s Rental Discount Initiative include Alayo Dance Company, Andrea Rodriguez, APulso Dance Project, FACT/SF, REYES Dance, seymour::dancecollective, Surabhi Bharadwaj and Theatre Flamenco of San Francisco.

Enriching the calendar of live performances will be a number of periodic, free events throughout the year. 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, community mixers and other special events.

The chronological list which follows spotlights the Theater’s featured presentations and secured rentals. For more information, visit odc.dance/theater.

* * *

THEATRE FLAMENCO OF SAN FRANCISCO

Un Mundo sin Tiempo (world premiere)

February 9 - 11

Fri. – Sat. at 8 p.m., Sun. at 3 p.m.

Theatre Flamenco of San Francisco, the Bay Area’s oldest flamenco dance company, brings audiences an explosive music and dance experience in its 58th home season production, ***Un Mundo sin Tiempo*** (A Timeless World).

Following the tremendous success of the company’s last performance at ODC Theater, *Un Mundo sin Tiempo* blends flamenco with original live electronic music, featuring trumpet and electric guitar. Under the direction of Artistic Director **Carola Zertuche**, world-renowned Spanish guitarist **Juani De La Isla** will lead the musical journey, accompanied by flamenco artist **Diego Amador Jr.** The ensemble includes flamenco dancer **Adrian Santana** from Malaga, guest modern dancer and choreographer **Nol Simonse**, California-based electronic musician **Pascual Martinz**, with **Roberto Aguilar** on electric guitar, **Mario Silva** on trumpet, and flamenco dancers **Claudia Delveze** and **Lea Kobeli**.

RACHAEL LINCOLN & LESLIE SEITERS

Long Playing (Bay Area premiere)

February 16 - 18

Fri. - Sat. at 7:30 p.m., Sun. at 5 p.m.

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. The two met in San Francisco in 1997 dancing on steel apparatuses under the direction of Jo Kreiter. Since then, with gaps and lapses, they have been in the middle of a project together more often than not, creating across various life stages and state lines. Currently, Lincoln is an associate professor in the Department of Dance at the University of Washington. Seiters lives in San Diego and is full-time faculty in the School of Music and Dance at San Diego State University.

ODC Theater is proud to call Lincoln and Seiters back to the Bay Area in *Long Playing*. Awarded Best Dance at the San Diego International Fringe Festival, *Long Playing* is the culmination of what Lincoln and Seiters call an “accidental trilogy” that began in 2006 with *attic an exit*, followed in 2013 with *People Like You*. In *Long Playing*, the artists continue to mine the form of the duet to reveal complex intersections of how and who we are in relation to what or whom we meet.

“We encounter the trickster and the crone, the big deal / no big deal sequencing of actions that become habit or ritual,” said Seiters. “Intimate, awkward, assured, lost, we honor lineage, question relevancy, savor beauty, tune, transform and reinvest in connection. Though likely we will look back at this as just one more chapter in a longer series, for now, it trines our trilogy of work made from 2006 - 2023.”

FANNY ARA

Lilith (world premiere)

February 23 – 25

Fri. - Sat. at 7:30 p.m., Sun. at 5 p.m.

Fanny Ara is an award-winning flamenco choreographer, performer and instructor based in the Bay Area. In her last major performance, *Tattooed*, “Ara found and turned up the voltage, her long hair whipping as she stormed the stage in a fury. Her feet hit the stage in a cascade of flamenco steps that spoke their own articulate language of rage and pleading, now defiantly emphatic, now whisperingly soft. Even the heavy breathing the audience could hear when she paused seemed summoned up from some deep inner space. Pride and fear, memory and determination poured forth in the dramatic highlight of the evening” (*San Francisco Chronicle*).

Her newest evening-length work reflects on the journey of Lilith, a symbol of female independence, sexual freedom and control over one’s destiny. In Jewish mythology, Lilith was the first woman created by God as an equal to Adam, but she abandoned the Garden of Eden, setting herself free, knowing the price she would pay for it.

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. Joining her on stage are two master musicians and longtime collaborators of Ara’s, multi-instrumentalist and music director **Gonzalo Grau** and pianist **Vardan Ovsepiyan**. Legendary Spanish dancer and choreographer **Emilio Ochando** serves as the project’s artistic advisor.

ODC/DANCE

Unplugged

March 1

Fri. at 6 p.m.

Unplugged is a recurring platform offering a rare and candid look into the creative process of ODC's choreographers. Join ODC Founder and Artistic Director **Brenda Way** for an exclusive behind-the-scenes look into ***A Brief History of Up/s and Down/s*** premiering at *Dance Downtown*, March 27 – 31 at YBCA.

ODC PILOT 74

REAL:FAKE

March 2 – 3

Sat. at 8 p.m., Sun. at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.

REAL:FAKE provides a chance for audiences to witness and support the genius of six emerging and mid-career choreographers (**Clairey Evangelho, Raychel Hatch, Jenni Hong, Lily Gee, Amber Gott** and **Addison Norman**). Each of the individual ODC Pilot 74 choreographers' work is as idiosyncratic as it is relatable, as much a reconception of conventional dance performance as it is a mirror of the self.

KAYLA FARRISH | DECENT STRUCTURES ARTS

Put Away the Fire, dear (world premiere)

March 8 – 10

Fri. - Sat. at 7:30 p.m., Sun. at 5 p.m.

Kayla Farrish is a New York-based dancer and director with a knack 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.

With a cast of six, including Farrish, *Put Away the Fire, dear* explores what happens when the roles of the romantic lead, the hardboiled detective or the femme fatale are inhabited by BIPOC performers. Spanning a variety of quintessential film genres from the 1930s to the 60s, from film noir to musical to screwball comedy, *Put Away the Fire, dear* attempts to combat the erasure that early film historically played upon people of color by marginalizing them in highly stereotyped roles like the mamie, coon, buck or tragic mulatto.

Joining Decent Structures Arts for the world premiere will be pianist and percussionist **Alex MacKinnon**. *Put Away the Fire, dear* was developed through residencies at Triskelion Arts, La MaMa, The Joyce Theater, The Watermill Center and 92NY.

DEGENERATE ART ENSEMBLE

Skeleton Flower (Bay Area premiere)

March 15 – 17

Fri. - Sat. at 7:30 p.m., Sun. at 5 p.m.

Degenerate Art Ensemble makes work inspired by punk, protest movements, comic books, Japanese monster cinema and fairy tales. Led by Seattle-based partners **Crow Nishimura** and **Joshua Kohl**, the

company has earned a reputation for its signature blend of Butoh-inspired movement, live music, projection mapping and psychedelic imagery. 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.

Skeleton Flower, which premiered in 2019, is the company's first two-hander, a performance for Nishimura, whose credits include choreography and direction, and Kohl, whose credits include music composition and direction. The work is a semi-autobiographical exploration of Nishimura's struggle with identity, depression, childhood trauma and the awakening of personal power. Nishimura and Kohl confront these issues with humor and imagination—casting family as monsters from a Godzilla movie—while tracing personal struggle through three fairy tales.

"The piece attains power and awakening by examining the fairytales that my mother read to me when I was young," said Nishimura. "It also deals with a violent assault that I experienced as an adult which became the catalyst for healing and the realization of feminine power. *Skeleton Flower* is a commitment ceremony that confronts the painful energies and tangled karma of my women ancestors. It is an exorcism and personal proclamation to choose my own path consciously for my own life."

ISADORA DUNCAN DANCE AWARDS CELEBRATION (THE IZZIES) **March 25**

The Isadora Duncan Dance Awards, informally known as the Izzie Awards, are awarded annually to acknowledge exceptional achievements in the performance and presentation of dance. Awards are given in nine categories to honor the dancers, choreographers, designers, composers, dance companies, scholars and other individuals who have made important contributions to the Bay Area's thriving dance community and to celebrate the excellence and diversity of dance in the greater San Francisco Bay Area.

SAN FRANCISCO DANCE FILM FESTIVAL **April 26 - 27**

From in-depth feature documentaries to engaging shorts programs, the San Francisco Dance Film Festival offers something for diehard dance fans and newcomers alike. For the latest information about this year's program, visit odc.dance/theater.

ODC SCHOOL **Youth & Teen Spring Showcase** **May 4 – 5**

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."

ALAYO DANCE COMPANY **Cubacaribe Festival Of Dance & Music** **June 14 – 16**

This year Alayo Dance Company will present an evening-length show as part of the 18th annual CubaCaribe Festival of Dance & Music. Titled *Esperanca Negra*, the piece explores dance and music forms that reflect the shared experiences and history of Afro-Brazilians, Afro-Cubans and African Americans in overcoming systems of oppression and slavery. The piece is a collaboration between CubaCaribe Artistic Director **Ramón Ramos Alayo** and **Tania Santiago**, whose dance company, Águas, highlights folkloric and contemporary Afro-Brazilian dance forms.

ODC/DANCE

Summer Sampler

July 15 – 20

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

STATE OF PLAY

August 1 – 4

ODC Theater's signature summer dance festival highlights the interplay of works by artists at different stages of their careers and at every stage of development, from early works-in-progress to fully staged evening-length works. It is "a celebration of experimentation, curiosity and risk," (*San Francisco Chronicle*).

This year's ten participating artists or groups have deep connections to the Bay Area. Those artists chosen to present evening-length works are **Randee Paufve**, director of Paufve Dance; **Peiling Kao**, director of Peiling Kao Dances; and **SFDanceworks** with **Bryan Arias**. The artists presenting short-form performances include **Audrey Johnson**; **David Harvey** and **Babatunji Johnson**; **Guillermo Gómez-Peña**, director of La Pocha Nostra; and **hadar ahuvia**. Finally, the artists presenting works-in-progress include **Brenton Cheng**, **Sierra Serban** and **Brianna Torres**.

Additional events include **Revelry**, a benefit in support of ODC Theater, free to patrons of any of the performances on August 3, and in the immediate run-up to the festival, the **State of Play Workshop**, a three-day dance- and movement-based workshop featuring a selection of artists from State of Play. Among the instructors this year are Cheng, Gómez-Peña, Johnson, **Maurya Kerr**, Paufve and Torres.

BALLET22

August 9 – 11

Ballet22, founded by **Roberto Vega Ortiz** and **Theresa Knudson**, has drawn national attention for its ensemble of cis-male, trans and nonbinary dancers performing en pointe. Named to *Dance Magazine's* 2022 list of dancemakers to watch, "Ballet22 is overturning ballet's rules about who gets to dance, what they get to dance and how they get to dance," (*Dance Magazine*). For the latest information about Ballet22's program, visit odc.dance/theater.

FACT/SF SUMMER DANCE FESTIVAL

August 16 – 25

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. Now in its fourth year, the FACT/SF Summer Dance Festival invites touring artists to perform on a shared bill with artists from around the Bay Area. For the latest information about the festival program, visit odc.dance/theater.

REYES DANCE

jAy Dios Mio! (world premiere)

September 6 - 8

Under the direction of **Jocelyn Reyes**, REYES Dance will present a new contemporary evening-length work titled *jAy Dios Mio!*, exploring religion and childhood trauma within the context of Latin American culture.

SURABHI BHARADWAJ

The Maze

September 14 – 22

Surabhi Bharadwaj presents *The Maze*, a devised work that draws from Bharadwaj's lived experience as a woman navigating structures of patriarchy, exploring the political through the personal. Using movement, poetry, music, theater and technology, "*The Maze* challenges notions of beauty, femininity, motherhood and the deification of womanhood."

CHITRESH DAS INSTITUTE

September 28 – 29

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. For the latest information about Chitresh Das Institute's program, visit odc.dance/theater.

MOLLY & AVIVA ROSE-WILLIAMS

All Of This Is True

October 4 - 5

All Of This Is True (working title) is an evening-length dance-circus-theater show currently in development by Bay Area twins Molly and Aviva Rose-Williams. Designed for audiences of all ages, this work-in-progress showing will feature lighting design by **Del Medoff**, music by **Ben Juodvalkis** and costumes by **Jenny Hurth**. The work explores the notion of "contradiction," melding contemporary dance, physical theater and Chinese acrobatics.

SAN FRANCISCO DANCE FILM FESTIVAL

October 16 - 19

From in-depth feature documentaries to engaging shorts programs, the San Francisco Dance Film

Festival offers something for diehard dance fans and newcomers alike. For the latest information about this year's program, visit odc.dance/theater.

RAWDANCE

October 24 - 27

ODC Home Company RAWdance is known for transforming theaters and public spaces through a mix of performance, curation and collaboration. Under the artistic direction of Co-Founders **Ryan T. Smith** and **Wendy Rein**, the company's nuanced, charged dances pose questions ranging from the broadly social to the intimately personal. Founded in San Francisco in 2004, the company expanded bicoastally in 2019, maintaining its home in San Francisco while cultivating new programming in New York's Hudson Valley. For the latest information about RAWdance's fall program, visit odc.dance/theater.

SEYMOUR::DANCECOLLECTIVE

BRIAR (world premiere)

November 1 - 3

Chafin Seymour presents the evening-length premiere of *BRIAR*, a hyperphysical dance-theater piece exploring theoretical notions of Blackness. Structures and notions derived from writers such as bell hooks, Robin D.G. Kelly, Hanif Abdurraqib and others combine with a collaged sound score of live and spoken text with disparate music samples to traverse the performative and liminal space of racial identity in contemporary culture.

ANDREA RODRIGUEZ

La Rumba No Para

November 8 – 10

Andrea Rodriguez presents *La Rumba No Para (The Rumba Doesn't Stop)*, a salsa love story about growing up in San Francisco, La Misi3n. The piece traverses through the streets surrounding 24th Street, where a melding of family secrets, culture, Latinx music and dance are explored through the themes of love, loss and addiction. The dance-theater work centers on themes of drug addiction, mental health and homelessness in the Latinx community.

ARS MINERVA

November 15 – 17

Ars Minerva is a celebrated company devoted to resurrecting forgotten operas from the Italian Baroque. Led by founder and stage director **C3line Ricci**, the company has presented modern world premieres of seven long-forgotten operas. For the latest information about Ars Minerva's next opera, visit odc.dance/theater.

ODC SCHOOL

Global Dance Passport

November 23 – 24

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.

APULSO DANCE PROJECT

Mutis* and *Like Water Lilies

December 6 – 8

APulso Dance Project, under the direction of **Andrea Salazar**, presents *Mutis* and *Like Water Lilies*, two works which reflect on issues related to mental health and the search for inner peace. For information, visit odc.dance/theater.

* * *

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:

ODC Theater's 2024 Season

WHERE:

ODC Theater

3153 17th Street

San Francisco, CA 94110

TICKETS:

Tickets are now on sale through April. For reservations visit odc.dance/tickets or call the ODC Theater box office at **415-863-9834**.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

odc.dance/theater

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