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ODC THEATER ANNOUNCES ITS 2025 SEASON

Highlights:

Winter Formal: **January 25**

Spring Season: **February 28 – March 3**

ODC Dance Jam's Spring Showcase: **April 19 – 20**

The Representation Project Film Series: **May 12 – September 8**

ODC/Dance Summer Sampler: **July 17 – 20**

State of Play festival: **July 31 – August 3**

Global Dance Passport: **November 21 – 23**

Plus, nearly \$50,000 in re grants to 12 self-presenting companies or artists



Photo by Whitney Browne.

odc.dance/theater

SAN FRANCISCO, CA, December 12, 2024 – ODC Theater, part of the most active center for contemporary dance on the West Coast, has announced the next year's season through December 2025, featuring over 40 events including three specially curated presentations from late February into March and the Theater's annual summer dance festival, **State of Play**. Additional highlights include

presentations by the nine awardees of ODC Theater's **Rental Discount Initiative**, offering 10 weeks of free or discounted space to self-presenting artists.

Next year audiences will also have the chance to attend performances by ODC's flagship dance company **ODC/Dance**, its pre-professional teen dance company **ODC Dance Jam**, ODC's home companies **Chitresh Das Institute** and **FACT/SF**, and **Global Dance Passport** featuring adult students and teachers from ODC School. Other exciting offerings include **The Representation Project** film series featuring the complete documentaries of **Jennifer Siebel Newsom** plus the Theater's inaugural **Winter Formal**.

"As we explore opportunities for collaboration in order to make our programming possible, I am humbled by our staff, curators, artists and the community partners who make ODC Theater truly great," said ODC Theater Creative Director **Chloë L. Zimberg**. "I invite audiences to approach our season with curiosity, and join us in our commitment to dance."

From February 28 through March 23, ODC Theater presents its Spring Season featuring three weekends of experimental performance by artists from New York and Los Angeles. Announced last month, those artists include, in chronological order, **Miguel Gutierrez** (February 28 – March 2), **Baye & Asa** (March 14 – 16) and **Adrienne Westwood & Angélica Negrón** (March 21 – 23). ODC Theater regrets to share that it has postponed the presentation by Barcelona-based **Lali Ayguadé Company**, previously scheduled to perform the weekend of March 7, due to a delay in the visa petition process. New dates for this presentation will be announced once they are confirmed. Details about the remaining three presentations are available at odc.dance/springseason.

In 2025, ODC Theater will present its 13th annual summer dance festival, State of Play. Over four densely packed days, July 31 – August 3, audiences are invited to join the creative process through a curated artistic exchange featuring premieres alongside works-in-progress. Ten artists have been selected for presentation next year. "Risk-Takers" offering evening-length works include **Lisa Fagan**, **Wanjiru Kamuyu** and **brooke smiley**. "Curious Creators" presenting short-form works of about 30 minutes include **Leila Awadallah**, **gizeh muñiz vengél**, **Beatrice Thomas** and **Molly Rose Williams**. Finally, the "Experimenters" offering works-in-progress include **Kim Fargas**, **Kimie Parker** and **Natalya Shoaf**. Details for the complete program will be announced in late spring at odc.dance/stateofplay.

"While the curatorial team didn't set out to achieve an all-femme cohort for State of Play 2025, it is timely, and feels necessary, to be supporting women artists at such a grave moment of time when the safety and rights of our bodies are under frightening threat," said Resident Curator **Maurya Kerr**.

Now in its third year, ODC Theater's Rental Discount Initiative has proven to be an indispensable resource providing access to space for artists especially those from underrepresented groups. Joining Zimberg and Kerr in reviewing applications to the program were Resident Curator **Zaquia Mahler Salinas**, appointed earlier this year, and **Megan Kiskaddon**, executive director of On the Boards in Seattle.

Listed in chronological order of their presentations, the awardees of this year's Rental Discount Initiative (RDI) are **CubaCaribe** (March 28 – 30), presenter of the 19th annual CubaCaribe Festival of Dance & Music; **Megan Lowe Dances**, in the remount of *Just a Shadow*, which premiered in San Francisco earlier this year (April 4 – 6); **Diana Lara & Cecily Holcombe**, a double bill exploring rituals of water protection and myths about monsters (June 20 – 22); **Teatro de las Tias**, in a production of Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Nilo Cruz's *Two Sisters and a Piano* (August 8 - 10); **Karishma Sharma** (September 19 – 21);

Davalos Dance Company, celebrating its 30th anniversary (October 3 – 5); **BIPOC Acro Collective Care Ecosystem**, comprising eight contemporary circus artists of color (October 25 – 26); **pateldanceworks**, in a new “immersive intergalactic solo” by **Bhumi Patel** (December 4 – 7); and **JEM!**, a multi-city choreographic collaboration under the direction of **Marcos Duran, Jenni Hong** and **Elise Knudson** (December 13 – 14).

“What excites me most is the power of possibility,” said Kiskadoon. “These awards meet artists where they are, fostering work that can only emerge when resources and creativity align. I’m eager to see how these voices will transform ODC Theater.”

“It’s been so rewarding to curate artists either in the earlier stages of their choreographic journey or more established artists without the visibility that their brilliance deserves,” added Kerr.

“In my experience, artists are more concerned than ever with the ways that their art is intertwined with sociocultural, political and ethical considerations,” commented Salinas. “Whether it is through the processes of creation, addressing larger systemic challenges or being explicit about for whom and where they choose to perform, dance artists are asking big and important questions and taking meaningful steps towards shifting the culture of dance and the role of dance in our culture.”

In 2025, ODC Theater will regrant a total of nearly \$50,000 in subsidies to self-presenting artists, including the RDI recipients and two home companies. Championed by ODC Founder and Artistic Director **Brenda Way**, ODC's home companies are selected in collaboration with the artistic leadership of ODC Theater. ODC's home companies provide a field context for artists working in a company model across various dance forms and aesthetics. Appointed without term, they receive ongoing support through subsidized studio space, performance partnerships at ODC Theater, classes at ODC School and more.

Chitresh Das Institute will present the world premiere of *Nari*, a work exploring the divine feminine (November 7 – 9), and FACT/SF returns for its annual two-week Summer Dance Festival (August 15 – 24). ODC's other home companies currently include Garrett + Moulton Productions, Kinetech Arts and RAWdance.

Audiences can also look forward to several recurring events in ODC Theater's 2025 calendar, chiefly ODC/Dance's *Summer Sampler*, with world premieres by ODC Fellow **KT Nelson** and former ODC/Dance company member, Princess Grace Award recipient and recent founder of her own company Eight Moves, **Mia J. Chong** (July 17 – 20); ODC Dance Jam's Spring Showcase, featuring world premieres by **Babatunji Johnson** and **Dexandro Montalvo** (April 19 – 20); and Global Dance Passport, featuring adult students and teachers from ODC School (November 21 – 23).

Additional events include ODC Theater's inaugural Winter Formal, a nostalgia-filled dance party in the manner of a high school dance featuring live music by San Francisco-based band Notorious (January 25); a showcase by youth and teen students enrolled at ODC School (May 3 – 4); a “community mixer” for artists, organizational leaders, funders, producers, designers and arts professionals of all stripes (May 12); and a community showcase of performance by ODC School faculty and adult students (June 13 – 14).

Next year, ODC Theater is also proud to partner again with The Representation Project for a film series screening the complete documentaries of its founder Jennifer Siebel Newsom: *Fair Play* (May 12); *The*

Mask You Live In (June 16); *The Great American Lie* (July 7); *Miss Representation* (August 11); and, following its premiere in summer 2025, Newsom's ***Miss Representation 2.0*** (September 8). Ticket sales will benefit ODC Theater and The Representation Project.

Other confirmed events next year include presentations by **Natasha Carlitz Dance Ensemble** (February 14 – 15) and **Ars Minerva**, a boutique opera company resurrecting forgotten works from the Baroque period (November 13 – 15).

Alongside its performance calendar, ODC Theater hosts a range of programs and initiatives. **Dance Stories** is an online collection of reviews and other responses to shows presented on ODC's campus over the years. Under the editorial direction of **Garth Grimbail**, next year Dance Stories will expand to cover a limited number of shows at other venues around the Bay Area. The emphasis will remain on performance within contemporary dance and movement.

Starting in February 2025, ODC Theater will also continue to host free **Lobby Nights**, with a rotating exhibit of visual art, live performance "open mics," drinks and snacks.

Finally, next year ODC breaks ground on the **ODC Theater Art Club**. Participants receive invitations to pre-show events hosted by ODC Theater's Creative Director Chloë L. Zimberg, and first access to opening nights where members can mix and mingle with artists and fellow art enthusiasts. For more information, visit [**odc.dance/artclub**](https://odc.dance/artclub).

Tickets, starting at \$40, are now on sale. A limited number of free and lower-cost **Art Access** tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis to those for whom price is a barrier.

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**](https://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 2025 Season

Winter Formal

January 25, 2025

Miguel Gutierrez

February 28 - March 2, 2025

Baye & Asa

March 14 – 16, 2025

Adrienne Westwood & Angélica Negrón

March 21 – 23, 2025

CubaCaribe

March 28 - 30, 2025

Megan Lowe Dances

April 4 – 6, 2025

ODC Dance Jam

April 19 – 20, 2025

ODC School Youth & Teen Spring Showcase

May 3 – 4, 2025

ODC Theater Community Mixer

May 12, 2025

The Representation Project Film Series

May 12 – September 8, 2025

ODC School Adult Student and Faculty Community Showcase

June 13 – 15, 2025

Diana Lara & Cecily Holcombe

June 20 – 22, 2025

ODC/Dance: Summer Sampler

July 17 – 20, 2025

State of Play festival

July 31 – August 3, 2025

Teatro de las Tias

August 8 – 10, 2025

FACT/SF

August 15 – 24, 2025

Karishma Sharma

September 19 – 21, 2025

Davalos Dance

October 3 – 5, 2025

BIPOC Acro Collective Care Ecosystem

October 25 – 26, 2025

Chitresh Das Institute

November 7 – 9, 2025

Ars Minerva

November 13 – 15, 2025

ODC School: Global Dance Passport

November 21 – 23, 2025

pateldanceworks

December 4 – 7, 2025

JEM!

December 13 – 14, 2025

WHERE:

ODC Theater

3153 17th Street

San Francisco, CA 94110

TICKETS:

Tickets are now on sale. Limited availability **free and lower-priced Arts Access tickets** are available to those for whom price is a barrier. 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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