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ODC THEATER ANNOUNCES ITS 2026 SPRING SEASON

Apr. 17 – 19: Fauxnique
Apr. 24 – 26: FACT/SF
May 1 – 3: Mariana Valencia
May 8 – 10: ĀNANDAM



Clockwise from top left: Charlie Slender-White, photo by Gema Galina; Travis Knights Travis Knights with Anandam, photo by Noel Bégin; Fauxnique, photo by Robbie Sweeny; and Jazmin Romero and Mariana Valencia, photo by Maria Baranova.

odc.dance/theater

SAN FRANCISCO, CA, November 18, 2025 – ODC Theater is proud to announce its **2026 Spring Season** featuring four weekends of thrilling, experimental performance. The Spring Season opens April 17 - 19 with a world premiere by **Fauxnique**, followed by a world premiere by **FACT/SF**, April 24 - 26, the Bay Area debut of New York-based artist **Mariana Valencia**, May 1 - 3, and finally the U.S. debut of Toronto-based company **ĀNANDAM**, May 8 - 10. Tickets for ODC Theater's 2026 Spring Season, \$0 - \$100, are now on sale at **odc.dance/theater**.

Next year's Spring Season offers a mix of local and touring artists, each of them highly acclaimed, across group and solo works. "When we talk about the Theater, people discover, sometimes for the first time,

that ODC Theater presents experimental, interdisciplinary, yet richly dance-based work, which reshapes how they see us and what they expect from our stages,” said ODC Theater Creative Director **Chloë L. Zimberg**.

“Working with guest curator **Zaquia Mahler Salinas**, as well as the many others who have contributed to our programming since 2022, has influenced both my artistic perspective and the Theater’s. These partnerships help clarify what we’re doing, who we are and where we’re going as we craft seasons of kindhearted and bold artists whose art-making also inspires an approach to life-making.”

“I am excited by the Spring Season line-up as an opportunity to engage deeply with artists whose work is both personal and expansive,” added Salinas. “Their work asks us to listen differently, and to witness how performance can hold both intimacy and community simultaneously.”

In addition to the four mainstage productions – descriptions follow below – the 2026 Spring Season will include a series of **Coffee Hours** with the season’s artists on Sundays at 11 a.m.; a **Conversation with FACT/SF Founder Charlie Slender-White** about the inspiration behind his new project on Friday, February 27 at 5 p.m.; a post-show **Cumbia Dance Party with Mariana Valencia** in collaboration with The Makeout Room on Saturday, May 2; and a series of **Hot Spot Classes** at ODC School led by the season’s artists.

“From the rhythm of the season’s curation to the quiet gestures of welcome beyond the stage, Chloë and the ODC Theater team think about every detail, ensuring artists feel empowered to take bold risks and audiences feel welcomed and inspired,” said ODC Founder & Artistic Director **Brenda Way**. “Every choice is intentional, creating a space where imagination finds its edge and connection feels inevitable.”

FAUXNIQUE

How Do I Look? (world premiere)

April 17 – 19

Monique Jenkinson is an artist working at the confluence of dance, drag and essay. Her alter-ego Fauxnique made herstory as the first cis-woman ever, anywhere, crowned as a pageant-winning drag queen, and her original works have toured nationally and internationally in wide-ranging contexts from nightclubs to museums. A two-time ODC Theater Resident Artist, Jenkinson published her memoir, *Faux Queen*, with Amble Press in 2022.

In her newest project, Jenkinson asks the most vain, mundane and loaded question, *How Do I Look?* With gutsy vulnerability she digs past glossy platitudes and flattering exaggerations into the hot mess of perception, subjectivity, identity and taste. Following its premiere at ODC Theater, *How Do I Look?* will tour to On the Boards in Seattle in early May.

FACT/SF

The Waves (world premiere)

April 24 – 26

FACT/SF, founded in 2008 by Charlie Slender-White, is an ODC Home Company whose rigorous explorations of craft and concept have garnered a devoted following. Next spring the company will

unveil its newest project titled *The Waves*, inspired by Virginia Woolf's modernist masterpiece of the same name.

In *The Waves*, FACT/SF takes up a theory of consciousness that Woolf's novel depicts. "What is the space between how I see myself and how others see me?" muses Slender-White. "What we're exploring in *The Waves* is that liminal space between subjectivities. We're looking for the places where minds meet, where sky meets sea...we're looking for horizon lines."

The Waves features a quartet of performers including **Keanu Forrest Brady**, **Erin Coyne**, **Jon Kim** and **LizAnne Roman Roberts**, with lighting design by **Del Medoff** and scenic design by **Maryam Rostami** and Slender-White.

MARIANA VALENCIA

Jacklean (Jacklean) (Bay Area premiere)

May 1 – 3

ODC Theater is proud to welcome Mariana Valencia in her Bay Area debut. Based in New York, Valencia has over the last decade earned a reputation as one of the most witty and transgressive performers of her generation, receiving a raft of awards including the Herb Alpert Award, a Creative Capital Award and a Bessie. Her experiments in form sit at the intersection of modern and postmodern dance, ethnographic research and improvisation.

The last of these is the central imperative behind *Jacklean (Jacklean)*, which Valencia has performed in various iterations, from MOMA in New York to REDCAT in Los Angeles, under the moniker *Jacklean (in rehearsal)*. For ODC Theater, Valencia, together with musician **Jazmin Romero**, have imagined the work as a finale performance.

"[Valencia] creates webs of form and feeling in order to bounce around them at the show, riding channels of communication that have as much to do with experimental dance as with standup comedy, talk shows and conversations with friends," (*The Brooklyn Rail*).

ĀNANDAM

Ephemeral Artifacts (U.S. premiere)

May 8 – 10

Founded in 2010, ĀNANDAM / Anandam Dancetheatre is based in Toronto, Canada, and ODC Theater is proud to present the company's U.S. debut. **Travis Knights** is an internationally recognized tap dancer whose career has spanned dance roles in feature films (*Bojangles* with Gregory Hines and Savion Glover), major touring productions (*Tap Dogs* and *Wonderland: A Tap Tribute to Stevie Wonder*), and stints with Tapestry Dance Company in Austin, TX and Cirque du Soleil, among others.

In 2021, Knights partnered with Anandam's founding artistic director **Brandy Leary** in a new iteration of *Ephemeral Artifacts*, an ongoing container for a diverse cast of performing artists. The current iteration, designed specifically for a theater context, has toured across Canada, the United Kingdom, Belgium and India. *Ephemeral Artifacts* presents Knights at the center of a multidisciplinary journey including 4-channel video installation with bells, original sound design, lighting and storytelling.

Ephemeral Artifacts explores “the evolution of jazz and tap...unraveling the body as a site of transmission, consequence and joyful defiance,” shared Leary.

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 flair. 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 the Fleishhacker Foundation, John and Marcia Goldman Foundation, Hellman Foundation, Sam Mazza Foundation, San Francisco Grants for the Arts, Phyllis C. Wattis Foundation, and many individual donors.

FACT SHEET

WHAT:

ODC Theater presents its **2026 SPRING SEASON** featuring four weekends of experimental performance including works by Fauxnique, FACT/SF, Mariana Valencia and ĀNANDAM.

WHEN:

April 17 – May 10, 2026

For all presentations: **Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m., Sundays at 5:30 p.m.**

FAUXNIQUE

How Do I Look? (world premiere)

April 17 - 19

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The Waves (world premiere)

April 24 - 26

MARIANA VALENCIA

Jacklean (Jacklean) (Bay Area premiere)

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May 8 - 10

WHERE:

ODC Theater

3153 17th Street

San Francisco, CA 94110

TICKETS:

\$0 - \$100

Limited availability Arts Access tickets, discounted between \$0 and 50% off the price of general admission, are available for those for whom price is a barrier. To purchase tickets, call **415-863-9834**, or online visit odc.dance/tickets.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Please visit odc.dance/theater.

For all press inquiries please contact John Hill at john@johnhillpr.com.