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ODC THEATER PRESENTS  
**RESIDENT ARTIST COMMISSIONS**

NICOLE KLAYMOON | EMBODIMENT PROJECT  
GERALD CASEL | GERALDCASELDANCE  
MAURYA KERR | TINYPISTOL

**June 7 – 23, 2018**

ODC Theater  
3153 Seventeenth Street, San Francisco  
www.odc.dance

SAN FRANCISCO, CA, April 26, 2018 – This June, ODC Theater is proud to present world premieres by three Bay Area artists at the culmination of their choreographic residencies: **Gerald Casel**, director of **GERALDCASELDANCE**; **Maurya Kerr**, director of **tinypistol**; and **Nicole Klaymoon**, director of **Embodiment Project**. Their evening-length works, commissioned by ODC Theater, will each receive three showings from June 7 to 23.

ODC Theater's Resident Artist Program represents a rare longitudinal commitment – three years in length – offering 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.

"Our Artist Residency Program is designed to allow long creative processes and more thoroughly researched work," said Theater Director **Julie Potter**. "And the results exemplify a range of practices and aesthetics."

The trio of Casel, Kerr and Klaymoon, however, are united in a concern for social justice and for the welfare of historically marginalized groups in the United States. Their premieres this June, each in its own way, seek to advance a greater understanding of the experiences of these groups through movement, music and spectacle.

Single tickets for each Resident Artist premiere are \$30 and may be purchased online at **odc.dance/tickets**. For more information please visit **odc.dance/residents**.

**NICOLE KLAYMOON | EMBODIMENT PROJECT**  
***Music of the Actualized Child*** (world premiere)  
**June 7 - 9**  
Thursday – Saturday @ 8 p.m.

**"Potent, powerful, epic dance theater."** – *San Francisco Chronicle*

Founded by Klaymoon in 2008, Embodiment Project is a San Francisco-based street dance theater company whose last show at ODC Theater, *Seed Language*, about state-sponsored violence and the Black Lives Matter movement, earned critical acclaim and a sold-out run. The company's newest project, *Music of the Actualized Child*, premieres June 7 – 9.

“Music of the Actualized Child draws on a new documentary film by Oakland-based educator and visionary **Shakti Butler**,” said Klaymoon. “Titled *Healing Justice*, the film presents restorative justice as a solution to the so-called ‘school-to-prison pipeline’ whereby predominately children of color are systematically funneled into juvenile incarceration and eventually into prison. *Music of the Actualized Child* uses the film as a springboard for visceral movement and musical invention, catalyzing an original work of documentary hip hop theater in the process.”



Amber Julian, left, and Terrence Paschal. Photo courtesy of the artists

With a large cast of interdisciplinary performers – featuring **Tigre Bailando**, **George “Wukong” Cheng**, **Dre ‘Poko Soul’ Devis**, **Sammay Dizon**, **Amber Julian**, **Johnny “Rawkit” Nguyen**, **Terrence Paschal**, **Keisha Turner** and **Chris “FluidGurl” Young-Ginzburg** – *Music of the Actualized Child* weaves autobiographical stories of childhood traumas told by the dancers themselves as a multiracial cast with the voices of formidable racial equity change-makers and trauma specialists, to discover what adverse childhood experiences reveal about our collective culture.

In addition to Butler and her husband and *Healing Justice* co-director **Rick Butler**, the creative team behind the project includes collaborating director **d. Sabela Grimes**, video artist and performer **Meena Murugesan**, sound designer and deejay **XOA**, costume designer **Aleah Clark**, violinist **Tim Kim** and vocalist **Amikaeyla**. Amikaeyla, Kim, Murgesan and XOA perform live each night.

On Saturday, June 9 at 6 p.m., ODC Theater will screen *Healing Justice*. On Friday June 8, a panel discussion with Butler, restorative justice leaders **James Bell** and **Sonya Shah**, who are featured in the film, as well as members of Embodiment Project, will follow the performance of *Music of the Actualized Child*. Hip hop journalist and community activist **Davey D** will moderate. A post-performance panel will also take place on Thursday.

#### **GERALD CASEL | GERALDCASELDANCE**

***Cover Your Mouth When You Smile*** (world premiere)

***Not About Race Dance*** (preview)

**June 13 - 15**

Wednesday – Friday @ 8 p.m.

“[Casel] uses choreography to ask questions about identity and cultural memory/ephemera; colonialism and diaspora; and the performance of queerness, class, and power – as an immigrant and person of color.” – *Movement Research*

Born in the Philippines and raised in California, '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



Na-ye Kim, left, and Gerald Casel in *Cover Your Mouth When You Smile*. Photo by Tim Russell.

and Stephen Petronio. Casel's own company, GERALDCASELDANCE, celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.

From June 13 – 15, ODC Theater will co-present the world premiere of ***Cover Your Mouth When You Smile***, the second piece in a trilogy about Asian American identity. The first in the series, *Splinters in Our Ankles*, a movement essay exploring the colonial origins of a popular folk dance in the Philippines, premiered in 2015. ***Not About Race Dance*** will conclude the trilogy when it premieres next year; a 30-minute preview will share the bill with *Cover Your Mouth* this June.

*Cover Your Mouth When You Smile* is 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,” said Casel. “The title comes from my observation that many Asians, mostly women, cover their mouth when they smile or laugh, which I think has to do with the desire not to expose one’s true self. But to be clear my title is meant to be ironic; I want to unsettle presumptions around Asian stereotypes.”

Kim trained as Casel’s student at New York University and with The Royal Ballet. She currently divides her time between Seoul and Hong Kong. Kao is an ‘Izzie’ Award-winning dancer from Taiwan, who has worked as a teacher and professional dancer in the Bay Area since 2007.

*Cover Your Mouth When You Smile* features interactive video projections by **Aron Altmark**, and an original score by Casel’s longtime collaborator **Tim Russell**, who will perform live each night.

Russell also composed the score for *Not About Race Dance*, which features dancers **Arletta Anderson**, **Christina Briggs**, **Rebecca Chaleff**, **Kevin Lopez**, **Tara McArthur** and **Karla Quintero**. “The title, *Not About Race Dance*, cites Neil Greenberg’s *Not About AIDS Dance*, which premiered in New York in 1994, in an effort to draw connections between the silence around the AIDS epidemic and the unacknowledged racial politics of contemporary dance. To borrow a phrase, I want to ‘unpack the invisible knapsack’ of white privilege.”

## **MAURYA KERR | TINYPISTOL**

***kosmos*** (world premiere)

**June 21 - 23**

Thursday – Saturday @ 8 p.m.

**"The more I wonder, the more I love."** – Alice Walker

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 under the company name *tinypistol* since 2011. Her newest work longs for a world where everyone has "equal access to wish upon a star."

"Given that systemic racism extends its toxic reach everywhere, including the lack of representation of people of color in fairy tales, it follows that black and brown people, early on in their lives, have not been allowed equal access to wonder," explained Kerr. "That

restriction from wonderment has far-reaching consequences, including possibly an inability to imagine ourselves in connection to the vastness and mystery of the cosmos."



Robyn Gerbaz and Alex Carrington. Photo by Stephen Texeira.

Kerr invited award-winning designer **Allen Willner** to create an atmosphere that would conjure a sense of vastness and starlight. "I want to set a tone of vulnerability in *kosmos*. To wonder a better world one first has to allow room for softness and hope."

The ensemble for *kosmos* includes **Asha Benjelloun, Alexandra Carrington, Alexander Diaz, Stephen DiBiase, Robyn Gerbaz, Allie Jean-Baptiste, Chelsea Reichert** and **Brianna Torres**.

## **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. For more information about ODC Theater and all its programs visit [www.odc.dance](http://www.odc.dance).

*The Resident Artist Commissions are made possible with generous support from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the MAP Fund, the Sam Mazza Foundation and San Francisco Grants for the Arts.*

## FACT SHEET

### WHAT:

ODC Theater presents **RESIDENT ARTIST COMMISSIONS** featuring world premieres by **Embodiment Project** under the direction of **Nicole Klaymoon**, **GERALDCASELDANCE** under the direction of **Gerald Casel**, and **tinypistol** under the direction of **Maurya Kerr**.

*Music of the Actualized Child* by Embodiment Project (world premiere)  
*Cover Your Mouth When You Smile* (world premiere) and *Not About Race Dance* (preview) by  
GERALDCASELDANCE  
*kosmos*, by tinypistol

### WHEN:

June 7 - 23, 2018

**Nicole Klaymoon / Embodiment Project**  
June 7 – 9

**Gerald Casel / GERALDCASELDANCE**  
June 13 – 15

**Maurya Kerr / tinypistol**  
June 21 – 23

### WHERE:

**ODC Theater**  
3153 17th Street  
San Francisco, CA 94110

### TICKETS:

**\$30** general admission to a single show  
For reservations call **415-863-9834**, or online visit **odc.dance/tickets**.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

**odc.dance/residents**

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