



ODC performs *The Velveteen Rabbit*  
Nov. 29 through  
Dec. 7 at YBCA.

## A letter from the PUBLISHER

# Alive With Art

San Francisco is absolutely buzzing right now. The city feels alive, from exciting new restaurant and bar openings to innovative product launches and a wave of inspiring performances lighting up stages across town. You can feel the creative pulse of the city everywhere, and it's exhilarating.

This month's Arts Issue celebrates that energy and the artists, makers and visionaries who keep San Francisco's cultural heart beating strong. One of the highlights for me has been watching the Big Art Loop take shape. Seeing these grand, imaginative pieces appear across the city has been a joy. Public art has a way of transforming how we experience our surroundings, and this initiative captures that spirit beautifully.

Equally exciting are the Illuminate SF installations glowing throughout our neighborhoods, bringing light, color and connection to our streets just in time for the

holidays. It's a wonderful reminder of how art in all its forms continues to brighten our community and our sense of togetherness.

The season also brings an abundance of wonderful holiday markets. Many feature local, artisan goods, from the West Coast Craft Market events and the SFMOMA Holiday Makers Market to the Winter Walk in Union Square. I hope you'll find something special for loved ones (and maybe yourself!) while supporting our creative community.

As the season unfolds, I'm especially looking forward to a beloved tradition: our partner ODC's 39th annual performance of *The Velveteen Rabbit* (Nov. 29-Dec. 7). It's a magical reminder of childhood wonder and the transformative power of storytelling.

Here's to a month filled with creativity, connection and light. May the holidays shine as brightly as San Francisco itself.

I hope to see you during the festivities!



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Publisher

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## Through 12/21 HOTEL HEALDSBURG HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

Head out of town for Hotel Healdsburg's holiday happenings, which begin with a gingerbread house unveiling on Friday, Dec. 5, at 5 p.m. Then on Saturdays and Sundays, there is a special holiday tea with festive cocktails and housemade pastries, delicious sandwiches and other seasonal treats. 25 Matheson St., Healdsburg, 707.431.2800, [hotelhealdsburg.com](http://hotelhealdsburg.com)

## Through 12/31 TIBURON TEA SERVICE

The Caviar Co. invites you to its Tiburon Tea Service, a holiday experience taking place from Wednesday to Sunday. The spectacular tea features sweet and savory bites, including eight different types of caviar—think deviled-egg sandwiches and burrata-and-tomato tartlets, both topped with caviar. 464 Main St., Tiburon, [thecaviarco.com](http://thecaviarco.com)

## Through 1/4 MERRY MERITAGE

Escape to Napa's winter wonderland at the Meritage Resort and Spa. Merry Meritage boasts wine country's largest outdoor ice rink, cozy private igloos, fire pits, a giant 40-foot Christmas tree and nightly snowfalls. There's plenty of special events taking place, like Santa's reading corner, so grab the family and make a day of it. 875 Bordeaux Way, Napa, [meritageresort.com](http://meritageresort.com)

## 12/5-28 SF BALLET'S NUTCRACKER

The beloved holiday ballet returns with shows throughout the month. On Dec. 13, join characters from the Land of Sweets at the *Nutcracker* benefit luncheon, a pre-performance event with food and crafts, and a reception at the theater during intermission. 301 Van Ness Ave., 415.865.2000, [sfballet.org](http://sfballet.org)

## 12/5 PALACE HOTEL TREE LIGHTING

The Palace Hotel is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year, and



its holiday tree lighting event will commemorate the occasion. A live jazz band will play tunes from *The Nutcracker*, and there will be enchanting surprises throughout the evening. The hotel is also hosting a variety of Christmas-themed teas, from a Santa event to another with carolers. 2 New Montgomery, 415.512.1111, [palacehotelsanfrancisco.247activities.com](http://palacehotelsanfrancisco.247activities.com)

## 12/6-7 VELVETEEN RABBIT BRUNCH

For the last weekend of ODC's run of *The Velveteen Rabbit*,

the nearby St. Regis hosts an exclusive brunch experience. A ticket includes a themed meal, a gift bag, an orchestra seat for *The Velveteen Rabbit* and a photo with the cast after the performance. [thestregissanfrancisco.247activities.com](http://thestregissanfrancisco.247activities.com)

## 12/8-9 TRUFFLE DINNERS

For two nights only, 7 Adams, Fillmore's fabulous fine dining destination, offers a special five-course holiday dinner that features all things truffles. Menu items will be delectable and include dishes >

Carmela Mayo and Alexis Francisco Valdes as the Snow King and Queen in Tomasson's *Nutcracker*



MODERN LUXURY SPOTLIGHT  
**about town**

**ODC Announces Mia J. Chong  
Co-Artistic Director at Fall for Art**

**Di Rosa Center For Contemporary Art  
September 28, 2025**

On Sunday, September 28, ODC held its annual Fall for Art fundraiser at the beautiful di Rosa Center for Contemporary Art in Napa. About 200 attendees, dressed in rustic chic, helped to raise \$366,000 in support of the creation of new choreography for ODC/Dance while underwriting the next generation of dancers in ODC's Youth & Teen Program. Guests enjoyed site-specific performances overlooking di Rosa's sculpture meadow, art installations, and vineyards. Among the auction items was a trip with ODC/Dance on tour to Taipei, and a surprise announcement delighted guests with the naming of Mia J. Chong as co-artistic director. Chong, age 28, has been part of the ODC family since she was five years old - first as a student at ODC School, then as a member of the Dance Jam, ODC's pre-professional teen dance company, followed by six seasons as a member of ODC/Dance, during which time she earned a coveted Princess Grace Award.

*Photography by Drew Altizer Photography*

