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ODC/DANCE ANNOUNCES THE PROGRAM FOR ITS ANNUAL **SUMMER SAMPLER**

World premieres by Mia J. Chong and KT Nelson,
alongside the revival of Catherine Galasso's *10,000 Steps*

July 17 – 20, 2025



10,000 Steps with choreography by Catherine Galasso. Photo credit: Robbie Sweeny.

odc.dance/summersampler

SAN FRANCISCO, CA, April 16, 2025 – ODC/Dance has announced the program for its annual **SUMMER SAMPLER**. Described as “a mainstay of the San Francisco dance calendar” (*SF/Arts*), Summer Sampler offers audiences an opportunity to experience ODC/Dance in the company’s intimate, historic theater.

This year’s program includes two world premieres, one by ODC Fellow and former Co-Artistic Director **KT Nelson** and another by former company dancer and current staging director **Mia J. Chong**. Rounding out the program is the revival of *10,000 Steps: A Dance About Its Own Making*, choreographed by **Catherine Galasso**. Summer Sampler takes place July 17 – 20, Thursday to Saturday, at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday at 5 p.m. Tickets, starting at \$30, are now on sale at **odc.dance/summersampler**.

KT Nelson's history with ODC goes back to 1976 when she joined the company. She would go on to become an award-winning dancer and choreographer, and co-artistic director alongside Founder **Brenda Way**, with credits including such pillars of ODC's repertory as *The Velveteen Rabbit* and *Path of Miracles*. During that time, she also built a family. Then, in 2023, her husband suddenly passed away. Nelson has chosen to use this new commission to grapple with her loss in community with ODC's dancers.

Under the working title *Nothing Is Going to Make Sense*, Nelson is making a dance in response to the disorientation and altered consciousness precipitated by the death of her husband. "I have a different set of eyes now, and the world doesn't look as it once did," she explained. "My husband Doug and I became partners when I was 21. I grew up with him. By the time of his death, we were a double helix."

"There's much less certainty for me now. I don't have a story to tell; I have an experience to share." With inspiration from avant-garde composers like Gabriella Smith, Nelson is journaling with words, paint and movement, and "not trying to make anything," she added. "My aim is to make sense out of no sense."

For her part, Chong, age 27, has been a 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. She is now the founder of her own company, EIGHT/MOVES, and jointly very pleased to be back with ODC/Dance as the company's staging director.

Summer Sampler marks her first commission with the company. "It feels surreal to be making a piece on the company that I grew up watching as a student," said Chong. "It's a wonderful sign of belief in rising choreographers. I feel really honored."

Chong is creating a work for the full company inspired by her research into the mysteries of time perception. "For example, why does it seem to slow down in moments of heightened emotion? How are time and memory connected? And how does time operate like a trick of the mind?"

Finally, Summer Sampler will reprise Galasso's *10,000 Steps: A Dance About Its Own Making*, which premiered last year. "A thrilling extension of dance's possibilities," exclaimed the *San Francisco Chronicle*. *10,000 Steps* exudes "brainy wit and flashes of profundity."

Galasso is well-known for her collaborations across theater, dance, opera, galleries and museums – and her site-specific works have been performed in underground bank vaults, grand marble staircases and apple orchards. But her connection to ODC goes back to the beginning of her professional career when, straight out of college, she participated in the organization's Pilot Program, followed not long after by a three-year ODC Theater artist residency under the mentorship of Brenda Way.

The culmination of her residency was an evening-length work, *Bring On The Lumière!* (2011), that was nominated for an Izzie Award and is now featured in the *Oxford Handbook of Screendance Studies*. More recently, ODC Theater presented the world premiere of Galasso's *Alone Together* (2018), which the choreographer later turned into a film which screened at ODC Theater's 2021 summer dance festival.

For more information visit odc.dance/summersampler.

ABOUT ODC

Founded in 1971 by Artistic Director Brenda Way, ODC is a groundbreaking contemporary arts institution: a world-class dance company (ODC/Dance), a theater with year-round presenting and mentorship programs (ODC Theater), a training school for dancers and movers of all levels (ODC School), and a fee-free, educational Healthy Dancers' Clinic. Known nationally for its entrepreneurial savvy and artistic innovation, ODC is unique for its holistic vision, now including a robust digital platform. With its home in San Francisco's Mission District, ODC makes a dynamic contribution to the Bay Area's vibrant dance and arts ecosystem, cultivating artists, inspiring audiences, engaging the community, and fostering diversity and inclusion through dance performance, training and mentorship.

FACT SHEET

WHAT:

ODC/Dance presents **SUMMER SAMPLER** featuring world premieres by **Mia J. Chong** and **KT Nelson**, alongside **Catherine Galasso's** *10,000 Steps: A Dance About Its Own Making*.

WHEN:

July 17 - 20, 2025

Thursday – Saturday at **7:30 p.m.**

Sunday at **5 p.m.**

WHERE:

ODC Theater

3153 17th Street

San Francisco, CA 94110

TICKETS:

\$30 - \$100

Tickets on sale at odc.dance/summersampler or by phone at **415-863-9834**.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

odc.dance

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