

For Immediate Release
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ODC/Dance presents its 41st annual home season
ODC/Dance Downtown

Highlights include three world premieres by Brenda Way and KT Nelson
Original music by avant cellist Zoe Keating performed live
Bicycle art by Max Chen

March 15-25, 2012
Novellus Theater at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco
www.odcdance.org



Avant cellist Zoe Keating performs with ODC/Dance, photo by RJ Muna

SAN FRANCISCO, December #, 2011 – ODC/Dance, San Francisco’s internationally acclaimed contemporary dance company, is pleased to announce the program for its 41st annual spring season. *ODC/Dance Downtown 2012* will feature three new works: *Breathing Underwater* by ODC Founder and Artistic Director **Brenda Way** set to live music by celebrated avant cellist and composer **Zoe Keating**, *Cut Out Guy* by ODC Co-Artistic Director **KT Nelson** featuring music by experimental composer **Ben Frost**, and *Transit* also by Nelson in collaboration with San Francisco bicycle artist **Max Chen**.

Breathing Underwater, Way’s new work, is a dance for four of ODC’s women joined by the celebrated cellist, Zoe Keating. Sometimes called “a one-woman orchestra”, Keating has risen to the top of the iTunes classical and electronic music charts for her use of a foot-controlled laptop to record layer upon layer of her cello performance. The effect is extremely intricate and haunting music.

In collaboration with Keating and lighting and stage designer Alexander V. Nichols, Way structured *Breathing Underwater* to invoke the historical constraints of a woman’s world.. Beginning in silence (referencing Way’s works of the 1960’s), small and large perturbations of female behavior are interspersed with tightly composed unison passages. Layers of movement and sound create a visual and kinesthetic world that quietly mounts in intensity over the course of

the choreography until it comes to its breathless end. “Fragility, tension and outstanding individual dancing characterize this piece.” says Way.

ODC/Dance’s five male dancers shine in KT Nelson’s *Cut Out Guy*, a work exploring the external self that we offer the world in contrast with our internal private self. *Cut Out Guy* is set to original music by Ben Frost. Frost, an Australian musician and composer now based in Reykjavik, Iceland, is perhaps best known for his “building-shaking” experiments in electronic music. Drawing on such sources as classical minimalism and punk rock, Frost’s throbbing guitar-based textures have earned him international attention.

Nelson’s second world premiere on the program is titled *Transit*, a full-company work celebrating the chaotic pulse of our urban centers – where high and low technology exist side-by-side – walking, biking, and high-speed transit. Dancing with three custom built bicycles by mechanical engineer and artist Max Chen and a musical score by Nico Muhly, *Transit* rides through the shape of a day: a coffee fix, the commute, lunch, and the evening return home.

Although *Transit* explores “the beauty in the mundane,” says Nelson, Max Chen’s bicycles are anything but ordinary. For more than ten years, Chen’s handmade designs have been wowing audiences at bicycle fairs, competitions, and art shows around the Bay Area and the West. His gracefully twisted tube frames, to name only one of his whimsical concoctions, can also be seen on some of San Francisco’s city streets.

Three additional works round out the 2012 season. *Raking Light* (2002), choreographed by Brenda Way, is a work inspired by the random nature of fate and by Johannes Vermeer’s *Woman Holding a Balance*. *Raking Light* is set to a commissioned score by composer Jay Cloidt and features lighting design by Alexander V. Nichols. Way’s *Part of a Longer Story* (2006), choreographed over 7 years, is set to Mozart’s concerto for clarinet and orchestra. ODC Associate Choreographer **Kimi Okada**’s work, *I look vacantly at the Pacific...though regret* (2011) rounds out the program. Set to music by Jay Cloidt and Shoukichi Kina, *I look vacantly* takes its name from a Japanese pencil box and explores the humorous and often awkward attempts at cross-cultural understanding.

ODC/Dance’s company of 10 dancers this year is Daniel Santos, Anne Zivolich, Yayoi Kambara, Corey Brady, Jeremy Smith, Vanessa Thiessen, Dennis Adams, Justin Andrews, Amy Foley and Natasha Adorlee Johnson.

ODC/Dance

ODC is known throughout the world for its athleticism, passion and intellectual depth. Among the many awards ODC’s three resident choreographers--Brenda Way, KT Nelson and Kimi Okada--have received a Guggenheim, six Isadora Duncan Dance Awards-including two life-time achievement awards, a San Francisco Examiner Golden Slipper Award, and a Tony nomination. Brenda Way was selected as the first choreographer to serve as Resident of the Arts at the American Academy in Rome for 2009. ODC has been hailed as “Best Dance Company” in the San Francisco Bay Guardian’s Best of the Bay 2002, 2005, 2006, and 2009 editions. In 2009 ODC was selected by BAM as one of three dance companies to tour internationally under the aegis of the U.S. State Department’s inaugural *DanceMotion USA* tour.

Founded in 1971 by Artistic Director Brenda Way, ODC (Oberlin Dance Collective, named after its place of origin, Oberlin College in Ohio) loaded up a yellow school bus and relocated to San Francisco in 1976. Her goal was to ground the company in a dynamic, pluralistic setting. ODC was the first modern dance company in America to build its own home facility in 1979, from

which it operates a school, a theater, a gallery, and a health clinic for dancers. In September 2005, under Way's leadership, ODC opened a second performing arts facility, the ODC Dance Commons. And in the fall of 2010 ODC unveiled its newly renovated and expanded Theater. Through its dozens of programs ODC strives to inspire audiences, cultivate artists, engage community, and foster diversity and inclusion through dance performance, training, and mentorship.

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

ODC/Dance Downtown, the 41st annual home season of ODC/Dance.

WHEN:

March 15-25, 2012

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| 7:30pm | Thursday March 15, Opening Night Gala (Special Program*) |
| 8pm | Friday, March 16, Program B (7pm From the Balcony Talk) |
| 8pm | Saturday, March 17, Program A (7pm From the Balcony Talk) |
| 4pm | Sunday, March 18, Program B (Post- Performance Curtain Talk) |
| 7:30pm | Wednesday, March 21, Program A |
| 7:30pm | Thursday, March 22, Program B |
| 8pm | Friday, March 23, Program A (7pm From the Balcony Talk & Post-Performance "Meet the Dancers" Party) |
| 8pm | Saturday, March 24, Program B (7pm from the Balcony Talk) |
| 4pm | Sunday, March 25, Program A (Post-Performance Curtain Talk) |

WHERE:

Novellus Theater at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 700 Howard Street, San Francisco

PROGRAMS

Program A

Breathing Underwater (World premiere), CHOREOGRAPHER, Way/MUSIC, Zoe Keating/LIGHTING Alexander V. Nichols

Transit (World premiere), CHOREOGRAPHER, Nelson/MUSIC Nico Muhly, ORIGINAL BICYCLE ART, Max Chen

Raking Light (2002), CHOREOGRAPHER, Brenda Way/MUSIC, Jay Clويدt/LIGHT DESIGN, Alexander V. Nichols

Program B

Cut Out Guy (World premiere), CHOREOGRAPHER, Nelson/MUSIC, Ben Frost

I look vacantly at the Pacificthough regret (2011), CHOREOGRAPHER, Okada/MUSIC, Jay Clويدt, Shoukichi Kina

Part of a Longer Story (2006), CHOREOGRAPHER, Way/MUSIC, Mozart

***Opening Night Gala (Special Program)**

Breathing Underwater (World premiere), CHOREOGRAPHER, Way/MUSIC, Zoe Keating/LIGHTING Alexander V. Nichols

Transit (World premiere), CHOREOGRAPHER, Nelson/MUSIC Nico Muhly, ORIGINAL BICYCLE ART, Max Chen

TICKETS:

\$20-\$55/General Seating

\$15/Students

Opening Night Gala: \$150-\$750

Tickets are available by calling 415-978-ARTS (2787) or online at www.odcdance.org.

For more information about ODC/Dance, visit the Company's website at www.odcdance.org