

For Immediate Release
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**A FORCE AT 40...
ODC/DANCE CELEBRATES ITS FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY**

ODC/Dance Downtown

**ODC/Dance's 40th home season featuring three world premiere works by ODC choreographers
Brenda Way, KT Nelson and Kimi Okada**



March 11-27, 2011

Novellus Theater, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco
www.odcdance.org

SAN FRANCISCO, December 16, 2010 – ODC/Dance, San Francisco's internationally acclaimed contemporary dance company, celebrates four decades of smart, exuberant, fearless dance with a special anniversary home season at the Novellus Theater at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, March 11-27, 2011. *ODC/Dance Downtown* will feature new works from ODC's three award-winning female choreographers and four major remounts of dynamic repertory favorites.

Over the past four decades ODC's three choreographers--Brenda Way, KT Nelson, and Kimi Okada, have created more than 140 works, including commissions for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, San Francisco Ballet, Los Angeles and Santa Fe Operas, Walker Art Center, and San Francisco Performances. The Company has performed for more than a million people in 32 states and 11 countries, touring to the Kennedy Center, Spoleto Festival, New York International Arts Festival, Jacob's Pillow, and the Joyce Theater, as well as venues in England, Switzerland, Germany, Australia, Canada, Southeast Asia, South America, and all across the former Soviet Union.

"We are proud to celebrate another milestone in a season of landmark moments," says ODC Artistic Director and Founder **Brenda Way**. "In the last year ODC/Dance has traveled to Southeast Asia as an ambassador of the U.S. State Department in its inaugural *DanceMotion USA* Tour. We premiered a new

work at the unveiling of our beautiful new state-of-the-art community theater—so many years in the making—to packed audiences and hugely enthusiastic reviews. And now we celebrate our fortieth anniversary as one of the oldest and most comprehensive contemporary dance institutions in the country. As an organization we are equal parts inspired and reflective, and both of these feelings have found expression in the programming for our 40th Anniversary season.”

Way’s 40th Anniversary offering is the second in a series of works, the first of which, *Architecture of Light*, opened ODC Theater in the Fall of 2010. Designed as a choreographic installation, fifteen guest dance artists joined ODC’s ten outstanding dancers to lead audiences on a poetic journey through the new facility. *Speaking Volumes: Architecture of Light II* will feature an original score by Jay Cloidt and lighting by Alexander V. Nichols, and will also include ODC alumni and members of the dance community.

ODC/Dance’s second premiere work is a collaboration between ODC Co-Artistic Director **KT Nelson** and acclaimed movement artist **Shinichi Iova-Koga**. *Listening Last* is a full-company work that investigates the impact of urban dwelling on our environment. *Listening Last* features an original soundscape by musician and instrument-builder Dan Rathbun, who incorporates sounds from the natural world and city life with traces of Vivaldi’s *Four Seasons*. For Nelson and Iova-Koga, the excitement of collaborating on this work has been the challenge of uniting their very different movement sensibilities. Iova-Koga describes his technique as generating only “the essential,” while Nelson describes her own movement style as “intricate, kinetic and full-bodied.”

ODC Associate Choreographer and School Director Kimi Okada, who most recently has been choreographing work for American Conservatory Theater and Berkeley Repertory Theatre also presents a new work at *ODC/Dance Downtown* – her first work for the company in six years. Taking its name from a Japanese pencil box, *I look vacantly at the Pacific...though regret* explores the humorous and often awkward attempts at cross-cultural understanding, examining the inappropriate, the frustration, the isolation and the unintentionally comic. Music is composed by Jay Cloidt and Shoukichi Kina.

In addition to these three world premieres, *ODC/Dance Downtown* will feature the return of four classics from its repertory: *Waving Not Drowning (A Guide to Elegance)* (2010) choreographed by Brenda Way, *Stomp a Waltz* (2006), choreographed by KT Nelson, and *Investigating Grace* (1999) and *John Somebody* (1990), both choreographed by Way. These works cover twenty years of invention and celebrate forty years of artistry.

Waving Not Drowning (A Guide to Elegance) was inspired by a French manual of female decorum published in 1963. A wry treatment of culture, fashion, manners and feminine perspectives, the work is set to a commissioned score by composer **Pamela Z**. The result is surprisingly “pointed yet benign”, a “genuinely coherent satire” (*San Francisco Chronicle*).

KT Nelson’s “visually exhilarating” *Stomp a Waltz* is characteristically athletic and emotional. “With the eye of an architect and spirit of a musician, she layers movement phrases that pair perfectly with **Marcelo Zarvos**’ rhythmically driving, highly emotional music.” (*SF Bay Guardian*).

Way’s *Investigating Grace*, set to Glenn Gould’s first (1955) Columbia LP of Bach’s *Goldberg Variations*, explores themes of love, loss and transcendence. Allan Ulrich in *Voice of Dance* called it “deeply considered,” and likened it to “a spiritual journey.”

Finally, *John Somebody* is set to the music of Scott Johnson, best known for pioneering the use of recorded speech as melody. A fast-paced, demanding work choreographed for two women and three

men, *John Somebody* was inspired by the frantic pace and perpetual demands of domestic life - and the fantasies that sustain us.

ODC/Dance's company of 10 dancers—Daniel Santos, Anne Zivolich, Yayoi Kambara, Corey Brady, Quilet Rarang, Elizabeth Farotte Heenan, Jeremy Smith, Vanessa Thiessen, Dennis Adams and Justin Andrews—grace the Novellus Theater's stage in the company's 40th Anniversary performances.

Special events include:

Opening Night Gala – A special celebration will mark the Company's 40th birthday on March 11 in the ballroom of the St. Regis Hotel.

Martinis in the Balcony – Sip martinis with Brenda Way, KT Nelson and Kimi Okada at a 7pm "From the Balcony Talk" on Saturday, March 12. Balcony Talks with drinks also take place Saturday, March 19 and March 26 at 7pm.

Small "Green" Plates – A small plates performance on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, is specially designed to cultivate a taste for modern dance. Twenty-dollar seats, complimentary drinks and appetizers, and a one-hour performance make this popular after-work event an ideal opportunity for the curious or uninitiated newcomer to sample ODC/Dance.

Meet the Dancers Post Performance Party —is an invitation for all audience members to meet the dancers on March 18 after the premiere of Program 2. Enjoy free drinks, desserts, and music in the Terrace Lobby as we toast ODC dancers, designers, and choreographers.

Curtain Talks – Thursday & Friday March 24 & 25th.

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 are a Guggenheim, six Isadora Duncan Dance 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 one of three dance companies invited 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, a special 40th anniversary celebration, featuring three world premieres

WHEN:

March 11-27, 2011

7pm Friday, March 11, Opening Night Gala (Special Program*)
8pm Saturday, March 12, Program 1 (Martini Night from the Balcony at 7pm)
6:30pm Thursday, March 17, Program 3 (Small "Green" Plates)
8pm Friday, March 18, Program 2 (Opening Night of Program 2)
8pm Saturday, March 19, Program 3 (7pm from the Balcony Talk)
8pm Thursday, March 24, Program 2 (Post-Performance Curtain Talk)
8pm Friday, March 25, Program 1 (Post-Performance Curtain Talk)
8pm Saturday, March 26, Program 2 (7pm from the Balcony Talk)
2pm Sunday, March 27, Program 1 (Senior Orchestra seats \$30)

WHERE:

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

PROGRAMS

***Opening Night Gala**

Speaking Volumes: Architecture of Light II (World Premiere), CHOREOGRAPHER, Way/ORIGINAL MUSIC, Jay Cloidt, LIGHTS and SETS Alexander V. Nichols

I look vacantly at the Pacific....though regret (World premiere), CHOREOGRAPHER, Okada/Music, Jay Cloidt, Shoukichi Kina

Stomp a Waltz (2006), CHOREOGRAPHER, Nelson/ORIGINAL MUSIC, Marcelo Zarvos

Program 1

Speaking Volumes: Architecture of Light II (World Premiere), CHOREOGRAPHER, Way/ORIGINAL MUSIC, Jay Cloidt, LIGHTS and SETS, Alexander V. Nichols

I look vacantly at the Pacific....though regret (World premiere), CHOREOGRAPHER, Okada/Music, Jay Cloidt, Shoukichi Kina

Investigating Grace (1999) CHOREOGRAPHER, Way/MUSIC, J S Bach

Program 2

Listening Last (World Premiere), CHOREOGRAPHERS, Nelson & Iova-Koga/ ORIGINAL MUSIC, Dan Rathbun

Waving Not Drowning (A Guide to Elegance) (2010), CHOREOGRAPHER, Way/ ORIGINAL MUSIC, Pamela Z

Stomp a Waltz (2006), CHOREOGRAPHER, Nelson/ORIGINAL MUSIC, Marcelo Zarvos

Program 3

John Somebody (1993), CHOREOGRAPHER, Way/MUSIC, Scott Johnson

I look vacantly at the Pacific....though regret (World premiere), CHOREOGRAPHER, Okada/Music, Jay Cloidt, Shoukichi Kina

Stomp a Waltz (2006), CHOREOGRAPHER, Nelson/ORIGINAL MUSIC, Marcelo Zarvos

TICKETS:

\$250.00 – Opening Night Gala (Performance and Post-performance party on March 11 at the St. Regis Ballroom) - \$150 for dance fans 30 yrs and under

\$45.00-\$60.00 – Gold Circle Seats – Center Orchestra

\$30.00 – Premium Seats – Upper and Lower Side Orchestra, Balcony Center

\$15.00 – Economy Seats – Balcony Sides

\$30.00 – Senior Matinee Special (Age 65+), March 27 – All Orchestra Seats

\$20.00 – Thurs., March 17, 6:30pm -- Small Plates Event – general seating

\$10.00 – Student Tickets

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