

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Mona Baroudi  
415.615.2735  
mona@odcdance.org

**ODC/DANCE CELEBRATES THE 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF ITS DANCE THEATER  
PRODUCTION THE VELVETEEN RABBIT**

**Created by ODC Co-Artistic Director KT Nelson**

*Featuring Energetic Dancing by ODC/Dance, Recorded Narration by Geoff Hoyle,  
Original Costumes and Set Design by Brian Wildsmith, Musical Score by Benjamin Britten,  
Songs by Gina Leishman and Bob Franke, sung by Rinde Eckert*

*November 25 – December 11, 2011*



*photo by rr jones*

SAN FRANCISCO, September 26, 2011 – ODC/Dance is proud to present the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the beloved holiday tradition, *The Velveteen Rabbit*. Created and choreographed in 1986 by ODC's Co-Artistic Director KT Nelson, *The Velveteen Rabbit* is a loving and witty interpretation of Margery Williams' classic 1922 children's tale. In the past 25 years, it has played to more than 350,000 people nationwide and has become a treasured Bay Area holiday tradition.

Featuring ODC's outstanding company of dancers, *The Velveteen Rabbit* is a timeless story with an essential message about the enduring power of love. The beloved holiday classic, now celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, features a number of events for the entire family. On Friday, November 25, grandparents are invited to bring their grandchildren and their cameras for *Grandparents & Photo Day*, when all seniors and grandparents get 20 percent off their ticket price, and are invited to take pictures with the characters from the production. On Saturday November 26, December 3 and December 10, Girl Scouts are invited to post-performance special interactive talk with KT Nelson and the chance to meet and ask questions of the dancers. The ever-popular *Milk & Cookies* party follows the performance on Sunday, November 27, and features mountains of delicious treats and a chance to meet the characters and dancers both with photos opportunities and an interactive family dance class. And for the third year in a row families will have the

chance to meet and touch real rabbits at a rabbit education showcase on *Save a Bunny Days* (Saturday, December 3 at 1pm & 4pm and Sunday, December 4 at 2pm) when ODC partners with SaveABunny, a nonprofit animal rescue organization based in Mill Valley.

In the spirit of community and engagement and holiday giving, ODC's successful *Buddies for Bunnies* program, now in its sixth year, offers hundreds of free tickets to public schools in need. Performances are on Wednesdays November 30 and December 7 at 11am are reserved for the *Buddies for Bunnies* program.

*The Velveteen Rabbit* is about the strong relationship between a boy and his stuffed rabbit, and the enduring power of love. Told from the perspective of a stuffed rabbit who wants nothing more than to become real, the story explores the deep bond the boy and rabbit develop over time. As their relationship grows, they depend upon one another in both good and bad times. *The Velveteen Rabbit's* message is timeless and appropriate for children and adults alike.

In this holiday classic, Nana, who stands 10 feet tall (generating the least glamorous role in contemporary dance for her lower half, dubbed "The Nana Bottom"), oversees the toys that share the nursery with the Rabbit: a skin-horse, toy soldiers, a crocodile, dolls and, in the garden, a pack of real rabbits. Intended to encourage children to engage, create and imagine, the show is suitable for children ages 3 and up, and for the child in every adult. In the spirit of ODC's commitment to education and engaging multiple generations, 10 talented children from the ODC School will also dance in the production.

## CALENDAR LISTING

WHO: ODC/Dance, one of the country's premier contemporary dance companies

WHAT: The 25<sup>th</sup> season of *THE VELVETEEN RABBIT*, choreographed and directed by KT Nelson

Featuring ODC/Dance's energetic and imaginative dancing, recorded narration by legendary actor Geoff Hoyle, costumes and sets by world-renowned children's illustrator Brian Wildsmith, and musical score by composer Benjamin Britten. *The Velveteen Rabbit* is suitable for ages 3 and up. Running time is 90 minutes including one intermission (Act I - 50 min.; Intermission - 15 min.; Act II - 25 min.)

WHEN: November 25 – December 11, 2011

Friday, November 25, 2pm

Grandparents & Photo Day

Saturday, November 26, 2pm

Girl Scouts

Sunday, November 27, 2pm

Followed by Milk and Cookies Party in the Forum\* (additional ticket required)

Thursday, December 1, 11am

Friday, December 2, 11am

Saturday, December 3, 1pm & 4pm

Save a Bunny (1pm & 4pm) & Girl Scouts (4pm only)

Sunday, December 4, 2pm

Save a Bunny

Thursday, December 8, 11am

Friday, December 9, 11am

Saturday, December 10, 1pm & 4pm

Girl Scouts (4pm only)

Sunday, December 11, 2pm

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

TICKETS:

- \$15 for 11am weekday performances
- \$12 for Milk & Cookies Party
- \$15 for side balcony seats
- \$30 for side orchestra/balcony center
- \$45 for center orchestra (price guaranteed through Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>)

Tickets are available through the Yerba Buena Box Office at (415) 978-2787 or online at [www.odcdance.org](http://www.odcdance.org).

**Note: The Yerba Buena Box Office is not open for telephone sales on Mondays.** Shows regularly sell out. Advance ticket purchase is STRONGLY recommended.

Group discounts for 10 or more people are available by calling Annie Jupiter-Jones at (415) 678-5956 or email [groupsales@odcdance.org](mailto:groupsales@odcdance.org). Family packages are also available. School group discounts, priced at \$10/ per ticket, are available for 11am matinees.

**SPECIAL EVENTS:**

**Friday, November 25, 2pm – Grandparents & Photo Day.** 20% off tickets for Seniors 65 and older. Bring your own camera and pose with the characters after the show!

**Sunday, November 27, 2pm – Milk & Cookies Party.** Join ODC/DANCE and the characters from *The Velveteen Rabbit* for this special one-time-only, post-performance MILK & COOKIES PARTY. Nibble on mountains of tasty treats, dance with the characters, have your face painted—great family fun for all! Tickets for this event are \$12/person and can be purchased at the Yerba Buena Box Office or online.

**Saturday, November 26, 2pm, December 3, 4pm December 10, 4pm – Girl Scouts** are invited to post-performance special interactive talk with KT Nelson and a Question and Answer session with the ODC dancers.

**Saturday, December 3, 1pm & 4pm and Sunday, December 4, 2pm – SaveABunny Rabbit Education Showcase** in the Theater lobby. Families will have the chance to meet and touch real rabbits at a rabbit education showcase on *Save a Bunny Days*.

**ABOUT ODC**

ODC, founded by Brenda Way in 1971 at Oberlin College in Ohio, started as a collective. In 1976, the sixteen dancers, painters, writers, photographers and musicians piled into a yellow bus and headed West to find a context for their artistic vision and social ideals. ODC is now a longstanding contemporary arts institution in the San Francisco community. The Company is known nationally for its entrepreneurial savvy and was the first modern dance company in America to build its own home facility in 1979.

In October 2005, ODC opened a second performing arts facility—the ODC Dance Commons, half a block from the ODC Theater. Having created the most active nexus for dance on the West Coast, the organization is unique for its fully integrated arts vision and its complex and far-reaching impact. Unlike virtually any other arts organization in the nation, ODC sustains a world-class contemporary dance company, a professional, pre-professional, and recreational dance training program, a healthy dancers' clinic, an eight studio rehearsal and office complex, and a nationally regarded presenting venue.

###