

For Immediate Release
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**ODC/DANCE CELEBRATES ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY
AT THE JOYCE THEATER, NYC
August 9-13, 2011**



“...the major reason to celebrate ODC is its artistic achievements...Over the years this body of work has become formally more sophisticated without losing its humanistic principals and questioning spirit...”
Dance Magazine, 2011

SAN FRANCISCO, May 24, 2011 – ODC/Dance, San Francisco’s internationally acclaimed contemporary dance company, is pleased to announce its return to The Joyce Theater in New York City, August 9-13, 2011.

The company will bring its 40th anniversary celebrations to the Joyce with two New York premieres reflecting ODC’s long commitment to interdisciplinary collaboration and musical commissions: **Brenda Way**’s *Waving Not Drowning (A Guide to Elegance)* (2010) and *Stomp a Waltz* (2006), by Co-Artistic Director **KT Nelson**. The company also presents Way’s seminal work, *Investigating Grace* (1999), which was recently awarded an “American Masterpieces” grant by the National Endowment of the Arts.

Ms. Way found inspiration in a French manual of female decorum for her 2010 work, *Waving Not Drowning (A Guide to Elegance)*. Published in 1963, *A Guide to Elegance* is a slim manual written to advise on female conduct and all things fashion related. Written in 218 tiny chapters, eg. “Girlfriends,” “Gesture,” and “Posture,” the manual provides lessons on appropriate behavior, from the mastery of casual refinement to selecting the suitable outfit for a morning rendezvous. Composer **Pamela Z**, who is celebrated for her particular mix of voice, live electronic processing, and sampling technology, composed the original score, incorporating all of these elements along with excerpts of the text.

Way's *Investigating Grace* (1999), set to Glenn Gould's first 1955 Columbia LP of Bach's *Goldberg Variations*, explores themes of love, loss and transcendence. Dance critic Allan Ulrich in *Voice of Dance* found it "deeply considered," and likened it to "a spiritual journey."

Stomp a Waltz is an exuberant, full company work by KT Nelson set to an original string composition by acclaimed Brazilian pianist and composer Marcelo Zarvos. Danced to a rousing recording by The Ethel String Quartet, the San Francisco Chronicle wrote, "The full company is given hungry, space-eating slides and lunges, and attacks them with gusto."

Founded in 1971 by Way, who trained under George Balanchine, ODC/Dance 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, and Jacob's Pillow, as well as venues in Europe, Australia, Canada, Southeast Asia, South America, and all across the former Soviet Union. In the last year ODC served as an ambassador of the U.S. State Department in its inaugural DanceMotion USA tour, and returning home, finally completed their beautiful new state-of-the-art community theater in San Francisco, thereby completing a \$20-million arts campus in San Francisco's Mission District.

ODC/Dance's company of ten dancers includes **Daniel Santos, Anne Zivolich, Yayoi Kambara, Corey Brady, Jeremy Smith, Vanessa Thiessen, Dennis Adams and Justin Andrews.**

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 celebrates its 40th anniversary at The Joyce
Three New York Premieres**

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

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

Stomp a Waltz (2006), CHOREOGRAPHER, Nelson/ COMMISSIONED SCORE, Zarvos

WHEN:

August 9-13, 2011
Tuesday-Wednesday 7:30pm
Thursday-Saturday, 8pm

WHERE:

The Joyce Theater, 175 8th Avenue, New York, NY

TICKETS:

Tickets range from \$19-\$49

Limited \$10 tickets are available

Tickets available at www.joyce.org or by calling JoyceCharge at 212-242-0800. (\$10 tickets available by phone only).

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