

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Mona Baroudi
415.615.2735
mona@odcdance.org

*Brimming with wit, festive costumes, and endearingly madcap characters
with the perfect amount of holiday cheer!*

**ODC/DANCE'S BELOVED DANCE THEATER PRODUCTION
THE VELVETEEN RABBIT RETURNS TO THE NOVELLUS THEATER AT
YERBA BUENA CENTER FOR THE ARTS FOR ITS 24TH SEASON**

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 sung by Rinde Eckert*

November 26 – December 12, 2010

SAN FRANCISCO, September 10, 2010 – ODC/Dance is proud to present the annual dance theater production of *The Velveteen Rabbit*, November 26 – December 12, 2010 at the Novellus Theater at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. Created by ODC Co-Artistic Director KT Nelson and featuring ODC's outstanding dance company, *The Velveteen Rabbit* is a favorite Bay Area holiday tradition.

A perfect production for our trying times, *The Velveteen Rabbit* is a beautiful story with an essential message about the enduring power of love. The beloved holiday classic, now in its 24th year, features a number of events for the entire family. On Friday, November 26, 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. The ever-popular *Milk & Cookies* party follows the performance on Sunday, November 28, and features mountains of delicious treats and a chance to meet the characters and dancers. And for the second 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 4 at 1pm & 4pm and Sunday, December 5 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 fourth year, offers hundreds of free tickets to public schools in need. Performances are on Wednesdays December 1 and 8 at 11am are reserved for the *Buddies for Bunnies* program.

A loving and witty interpretation of Margery Williams' classic 1922 children's tale choreographed by ODC Co-Artistic Director KT Nelson, *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 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 26 – December 12, 2010

Friday, November 26, 2pm

Grandparents & Photo Day

Saturday, November 27, 2pm

Sunday, November 28, 2pm

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

Thursday, December 2, 11am

Friday, December 3, 11am

Saturday, December 4, 1pm & 4pm

SaveABunny Rabbit Education Showcase in the Theater lobby

Sunday, December 5, 2pm

SaveABunny Rabbit Education Showcase in the Theater lobby

Thursday, December 9, 11am

Friday, December 10, 11am

Saturday, December 11, 1pm & 4pm

Sunday, December 12, 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

Tickets are available through the Yerba Buena Box Office at (415) 978-2787 or online at www.ybca.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 Linda Graham at (415) 346-7805. Family packages are also available. School group discounts, priced at \$10/ per ticket, are available for 11am matinees.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Friday, November 26, 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 28, 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, December 4, 1pm & 4pm and Sunday, December 5, 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*

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