



For Immediate Release

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Dance Brigade's Dance Mission Theater presents

D.I.R.T.

Dance In Revolt(ing) Times

*Sixteen choreographers, three distinct programs, two riveting weekends.
What happens when artists revolt?*

January 23-February 1, 2015
Dance Mission Theater, 3316 24th St., SF CA 94110
www.dancemission.com

(San Francisco, CA) *Dance Brigade's Dance Mission Theater* has curated an exciting new program that features sixteen cutting-edge choreographers that rose to the challenge of addressing some of the issues troubling our tumultuous times. Dance Mission put out a call and 64 emerging and established artists responded. The producers finally settled on presenting sixteen distinct choreographers over the course of two weekends, whose work ranges from Modern, to Hip Hop, to Peruvian Folkloric, reflecting the diversity of the Bay Area's dance scene. These fresh and fascinating artists include **Alma Cunningham, Nicole Klaymoon's Embodiment Project / Destiny Arts, Nol Simonse, Frances Cachapero and Shakiri, Kristin Damrow, Christine Germain, Qinmin Liu, Dazaun Soleyn, Sarah Bush, Luis Valverde, Esmeralda Kundanis-Grow, Tanya Bello, Bianca Mendoza, Sarah Berges, Jetta Martin, and Diana Lara.**

Artistic Director **Krissy Keefer** and Theater Director **Stella Adelman** conceptualized the program to fill the gap left by SummerFest/dance. SummerFest used to be a must-see, must participate event for Bay Area choreographers. Many artists used this as a platform to jumpstart careers and have their work viewed by a large and diverse audience. Dance Mission is familiar with this production model, as Keefer was integral in helping produce SummerFest when it was hosted at Brady Street Theater.

Artists are presenting work on a social political issue for this is what Dance Brigade does best: combining artistic excellence with art activism. When asked about the theme, Dance In Revolt, Keefer responded, "*It is the duty of the artist to hold up a mirror to society and also imagine a world that could be.*" There is a long tradition of the artist in the role of activist and this is



needed today more than ever. Says Adelman, “*Vladimir Nabokov summed it up best - anything outstanding and original in the way of creative thought is a stride toward Revolution.*”

Dance Brigade is known for known for nurturing artists. Many of Dance Mission’s artists-in-residence and Choreographer’s Showcase presenters have gone on to be GOLDIE winners including Ramon Ramos Alayo, Nol Simonse, and Sean Dorsey. And Keefer’s Brady Street was the incubator theater for the then rising stars, Robert Moses, Yannis Adoniou, and Keith Hennessy. D.I.R.T. follows this trajectory.

Funded by Felishhacker Foundation and the Zellerbach Family Foundation, D.I.R.T. provides artists the opportunity to present work without the burden of self-production, something that is rare in today’s economy. The cost of weekly rentals of theaters in San Francisco is astronomical, with Dance Mission being the exception. The need for a low-cost theater is clear, as Dance Mission is booked 45 weeks out of the year; and yet still constantly asked about discounts / residencies. D.I.R.T. meets this need. It provides venue and visibility with relatively low financial risk on the part of the artist.

D.I.R.T. will run for two weekends and feature three distinct programs **January 24-February 1, 2015** at **Dance Mission Theater** in **San Francisco** (3316 24th Street at Mission). **Tickets are \$20 in advance at brownpapertickets.com.** For patrons interested in attending more than one program, festival passes are available by calling **415-826-4441**. For more information, please visit **dancemission.com**.

ABOUT SELECTED ARTISTS

Sarah Bush – Sarah Bush creates her inimitable style of movement combining years of training in ballet, modern, hip hop, jazz, Afro-Caribbean, contact improvisation, and more. Since 1999, she has been Artistic Director of Sarah Bush Dance Project (SBDP), a contemporary dance company based in the San Francisco Bay Area. SBDP’s most recent work *Rocked By Women* premiered in 2011. In 2014, it was re-developed and presented at Dance Mission Theater to enthusiastic crowds and notable dance critics in San Francisco. San Francisco Chronicle Dance Critic Rachel Howard called Sarah Bush “a force to be reckoned with,” and in 2010 Curve Magazine recognized Sarah Bush for her emerging, innovative choreography with a coveted “Curvey Award.” She is a member of the groundbreaking dance company Dance Brigade, has worked with Oakland-based AXIS Dance Company and the Destiny Arts Center, and been a guest performer with Bill T. Jones.

Luis Valverde – Luis Valverde founded Valverde Dance Company in 2002. Having started his career in 1991 in Lima, he moved to the Bay Area in 2000 as Director of the Ballet Antakella in the Tradicion Peruana Cultural Center of San Francisco.

Nicole Klaymoon - Nicole Klaymoon is the Artistic Director of the Embodiment Project. She has performed in dance works directed by Marc Bamuthi Joseph, Rennie Harris, Sean San Jose,



Amara Tabor-Smith, Meredith Monk, Maria Gellespie, Annie Rosenthal-Parr, and Anne Bluethenthal. She has shared a bill with Arianna Huffington, Dead Prez, Elevators, Dance Brigade, and Rennie Harris Puremovement. As a solo performer, Klaymoon created the dance theater production, *Sixth Vowel*, choreographed by Rennie Harris and directed by Kamilah Forbes of the New York City Hip Hop Theatre Festival. Miami New Times art critic Chuck Strouse wrote “Nicole Klaymoon’s *Sixth Vowel* was THE BEST small theatrical production I have seen in this city in a decade.”

Qinmin Liu – Qinmin Liu is an interdisciplinary artist from China. After 15 years of dance training and performing, body language becomes an irreplaceable element in her art and focuses on her “4a” creative motivation and inspiration, which represents *anywhere, anyone, anything, and anytime*.

Nol Simonse - Nol Simonse has been a member of the dance community for over a decade. He has worked with Janice Garrett & Dancers, Stephen Pelton Dance Theatre, Kunst-Stoff, and Dandelion Dancetheater. He has also worked with Sue Roginski, Christy Funsch, Heidi Schweiker, Kara Davis/Project Agora, Della Davidson, Mark Foehringer, and Sean Dorsey. Nol has collaborated with many wonderful artists and has produced his own work with fellow choreographer Todd Eckert in the "Shared Space" series. He received a GOLDIE in 2009.

Dazaun Soleyn - Dazaun Soleyn is an international freelance artist and trainee at Alonzo King's LINES Ballet. Recognized as Spring 2014 Outstanding Graduate, Dazaun received a BFA in Modern Dance Performance and Choreography from the University of South Florida. He has had the privilege to work with artists such as Robert Moses' Kin Dance, Bliss Kohlmyer, Dyane Harvey-Salaam, and John Parks among others. As a freelance artist Dazaun has performed and presented choreographic work in New York City, San Francisco, Beijing, China, and Trinidad and Tobago.

ABOUT DANCE BRIGADE’S DANCE MISSION THEATER

In 1975 Dance Brigade Artistic Director Krissy Keefer co-founded the Wallflower Order, the nation’s first feminist dance company. Wallflower toured the nation for almost a decade, and staged many of Keefer’s original pieces before large, enthusiastic and predominantly feminist audiences. Keefer developed a new kind of modern dance theater that was stylistically rooted in the martial arts, in female athleticism, and in social justice issues. Keefer co-founded **Dance Brigade** in 1984 as a feminist dance company to carry forward her activist feminist vision. Her original works continue to explore social issues such as war, poverty, breast cancer, women’s history, and spirituality from a feminist perspective.

In 1998, Dance Brigade began to operate **Dance Mission Theater** at 24th and Mission Streets in San Francisco and added significant presenting, affordable theater and rehearsal space rental, artist development, and adult/youth dance instruction programs. Dance Mission Theater is an 8,400-square-foot dance center, with a 140-seat black box theater with professional lighting and



sound capabilities. The facility also contains three dance studios. Major artistic accomplishments include: creation and production of 15 evening-length works of Keefer's original feminist dance/theater for sold-out crowds; presentation of the pioneering CubaCaribe, SkyDancers, ManiFestival, and Women on the Drum festivals; management of a welcoming, affordable, artist-led professional theater that presents more than 110 choreographers each year and helps emerging artists launch their professional careers through programs such as the Choreographers Showcase; and creating Grrrl Brigade, an intensive dance/leadership development program for hundreds of local girls age 9 to 18. Dance Brigade also operates the Dos Rios Artist Retreat Center in Mendocino County, which offers space for performance, dance, drum, and yoga intensives, and artist residencies, serving both the Bay Area and the local rural Mendocino communities.

Dance Brigade has created a foundation of mutual support based on its mission, which values building community through arts. The organization has a long history of activism and community engagement. Its women identified feminist values hold social justice and inclusion as highest priority and has nurtured many artists both seasoned and emerging, working with diverse populations. Dance Mission is the preeminent Hip Hop and Caribbean dance school in San Francisco and the welcoming atmosphere encourages seemingly disparate communities to overlap and cross-pollinate. By being financially accessible, the theater, school and company is able to serve the widest possible clientele.

Calendar Editors please note

WHAT:

D.I.R.T. - Dance In Revolt(ing) Times

Dance Mission Theater presents sixteen choreographers in three distinct programs over two riveting weekends. What happens when artists revolt?

WHEN:

January 23-February 1, 2015

Program A: January 23 and January 24, 8pm

Program B: January 30, 8pm and February 1, 3pm

Program C: January 31, 8pm and February 1, 7pm

PROGRAM A: Friday, January 23 at 8pm / Saturday, January 24 at 8pm

Nol Simonse, Nicole Klaymoon's Embodiment Project / Destiny Arts, Esmeralda Kundanis-Grow, Tanya Bello's Project. B., Bianca Mendoza's Binki Danz

PROGRAM B: Friday, January 30 at 8pm / Sunday, February 1 at 3pm

Diana Lara, Sarah Bush, Jetta Martin, Dazaun Soleyn, Alma Esperanza Cunningham, Luis Valverde



PROGRAM C: Saturday, January 31 at 8pm / Sunday, February 1 at 7pm
Frances Cachapero, Kristin Damrow, Christine Germain, Qinmin Liu, Sarah Berges Dance

WHERE:

Dance Mission Theater, 3316 24th St, SF CA 94110

TICKETS:

\$20 in advance at brownpapertickets.com / 1-800-838-3006 or \$25 at the door
Festival packages available for patrons interested in attending more than one program available.
Please call 415-826-4441 to purchase festival packages: \$35 for two programs, \$50 for three programs.

INFORMATION:

Dancemission.com or 415-826-4441

PRESS PHOTOS:

Available by request at dancemissiontheater@yahoo.com and online at
http://dancemission.com/press/press_releases.html