

Dance Brigade

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Dance Brigade presents

¡Adelante!

Dance that moves us forward...

Featuring new work by Krissy Keefer and guest choreographers, Sara Shelton Mann, Ramon Ramos Alayo, Enrico Labayen, Yayoi Kambara, and Daiane Lopes da Silva.

Photo by: Robbie Sweeny

November 18-19, 2017: Saturday 8pm & Sunday 6:00pm

Dance Mission Theater: 3316 24th Street, San Francisco CA 94110

Tickets: \$20 advance / \$25 door

Info and tickets: dancemission.com / [415-826-4441](tel:415-826-4441)

(San Francisco, October 2017) What happens when some of the Bay Area's most prominent and provocative choreographers come together to set work on one dance company? Dance Brigade's director, Krissy Keefer, set about exploring just that and commissioned Sara Shelton Mann, Yayoi Kambara, Gregory Dawson, Enrico Labayen, Daiane Lopes da Silva, and Ramon Ramos Alayo to set primarily new work on her company. From Dawson's lines, to Alayo's undulations, to Keefer's politics, the evening is sure to excite.

KRISSY KEEFER

Krissy Keefer, Artistic Director of Dance Brigade and Dance Mission Theater, has been called the "Mother Courage of Dance" by the San Francisco Bay Guardian. She has produced over 200 performances of her own work and the work of other choreographers, including Contraband, ODC/San Francisco,

Robert Moses, Urban Bush Women, San Jose Taiko, and Barrio Rojo from Mexico. She was the co-founder and co-director of the groundbreaking San Francisco Lesbian and Gay Dance Festival, which has been presenting performances, workshops, and panel discussions by established and emerging lesbian and gay dance artists since 1996. She is the co-founder and artistic director of Dance Brigade, a founding member of the Wallflower Order Dance Collective in 1979, a founding member of the Eugene Dance Collective, and a member of both the Edgecliff College Repertory Theater and the Cincinnati Ballet. Ms. Keefer was the Artistic Director of Brady Street Dance Centre from 1996-97. And in 1998 began running Dance Mission Theater. In 1986 she served as Artistic Director and Instructor of the Dance Workout Project for the San Francisco Ballet. From 1978 through 1992 she taught a summer intensive workshop entitled Art and Politics in Oakland, California.

Ms. Keefer has directed and choreographed numerous critically and popularly acclaimed productions. For Dance Brigade she collaborated with Nina Fichter to create *The Revolutionary Nutcracker Sweetie*, *Pandora's Box*, *Bloodroots*, *Crossfire*, and *Love in a Bitter Time*. She collaborated with dancer Laurel Near on a 1990 dance/theater drama entitled *Sleepwalker*, and in 1993 created *Cinderella, A Tale of Survival*, in collaboration with playwright Tony Press and composer Ferron. *Ballet of the Banshees* was created by Ms. Keefer with Kim Epifano in 1996. Her one-woman show, *Queen of Sheba*, received great acclaim in 1999. She has also created *Cave Women* (2000-2003, 2012), *Spell* (2004-2005), *Dry Ice* (2005), *The Great Liberation Upon Hearing* (2009-2011), and *Hemorrhage: An Ablution of Hope and Despair* (2014) for Dance Brigade. She has worked as a choreographer for both the San Jose Repertory Theater and the Berkeley Repertory Theater. Ms. Keefer has had her work performed throughout the United States, as well as in Japan, Europe, Nicaragua, Cuba and the Middle East. She co-directed with Timmy Near on San Jose Rep's *Iphigenia* (2006) and Dance Brigade's *The Proud* (2011).

Her awards and recognitions include two Isadora Duncan Awards (2001) for text for "Community Performance Extravaganza" and "Saving SF Dance Space," "One of the best shows of 1999" for her solo dance drama "Queen of Sheba" from the San Francisco Bay Guardian (1999), two Isadora Duncan Special Awards (1998, 2013), San Francisco Magazine's Arts Achievement Award for Dance (1998), and a "Goldie" from the San Francisco Bay Guardian (1997). Ms. Keefer has received five choreography fellowships as a Resident Artist/Choreographer from the California Arts Council, three fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, and in 1996 was awarded an Individual

Artists Commission by the San Francisco Arts Commission. She has also participated on numerous dance panels.

Sara Shelton Mann has been a choreographer, performer, teacher since 1967. She was a protégé of Alwin Nikolais and Murray Lewis in N.Y.C. before moving to Canada where she met Andrew Harwood and fell in love with contact improvisation. In 1979 she moved to San Francisco CA and started the Company Contraband as a performance group and research ground combining the principles of contact, systems of the body and spiritual practice into a unified system of research. Among her awards are a Foundation for Contemporary Arts Award, John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship, 6 Isadora Duncan Awards, Djerassi Artist in Residence, Headlands Center for the Arts Artist in Residence and SF Bay Guardian Goldie Lifetime Achievement Award. Her Movement Alchemy training is an ongoing teaching project and is influenced by certifications and studies in the metaphysical and healing traditions. Sara's performance work is a platform for collaboration and research in consciousness.

Daiane Lopes da Silva is a dancer, choreographer and the artistic director of Kinetech Arts. Her work has been performed in Brazil, France, Belgium and the U.S.A. In Portugal, she worked with Lisbon Dance Company, Almada Dance Company, and DancArte. In the Bay Area, Daiane performed with Labayen Dance, KUNST-STOFF Dance Company, Copious Dance Theatre, Mudita Arts for Peace and Robert Moses' Kin. Her residencies include RAW at The Garage, RAD at KUNST-STOFF arts, and Marin Headlands Center for the Arts. Daiane studied with full scholarship at The Municipal Ballet of Sao Paulo and at P.A.R.T.S. (Performing Arts Research and Training Studios), directed by Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker in Brussels. She graduated with a B.A. in Psychology, Alpha Beta Kappa, from SFSU.

Gregory P Dawson, former Lines Ballet dancer, received his BA from Saint Mary's College. In 2007, he formed dawsondancesf (ddsf) as an outlet for his choreographic goals and vision. Shortly thereafter, he created "which light in the sky is us" for Company C Contemporary Ballet (nominated for an Isadora Duncan Award for choreography) and became the Assistant Director of the California State Summer School of the Arts' Dance Department in Southern California. In the fall of 2011, Mr. Dawson became Artistic Director of Dawson Wallace Dance Project in Denver, Colorado (formerly David Taylor Dance), where the Denver Post named him "the best choreographer in Denver."

Soon after, Dawson received a CHIME grant, partnering him with choreographic mentor Elizabeth Streb for one year. In September 2013, dawsondancesf re-established its presence in San Francisco with the world premiere of “fabricca matterasso d’argento” at Zaccho Dance Theatre. Following this, Mr. Dawson created “birds eye view” (a collaboration with the Richard Howell Quintet) for the 2014 Black Choreographers Festival, which received an Isadora Duncan Award in 2015. Also, ddsf presented “MONOCHROME” at the BAN7 Festival 2014 in San Francisco. In the Fall of 2014, Dawson premiered “in this moment” with Richard Howell. The Zellerbach Foundation funded ddsf next premiered, “intrinsic motion project“, and this past summer 2015 ddsf completed 5th week residency at CSSSA’s summer intensive at Cal Arts where Dawson is assistant to the Chair. In spring of 2015, ddsf premiered Intima produced by Al’myra Communication which collaborated with Ali Kaf – visuals, and Ashraf kateb – music. dawsondancesf made its debut in New York City in the Fall of 2014, at Baurch College, with a return in September 25-27 of 2015. Dawson currently teaches and choreographs for all the LINES Ballet Educational Programs.

Yayoi Kambara believes the movement of dance grounds us to the reality of the human condition. It can elevate both the dancer and the audience to a state of hopefulness where society’s ills seem surmountable. Kambara was born in Tokyo, Japan and was raised in the Bay Area and Surrey, England. She holds a B.A. in East Asian Studies from Lawrence University and a B.F.A in Dance Performance from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. Kambara has been a performance artist for STEAMROLLER Dance Company, Sara Shelton Mann/Contraband, and Scott Wells. She also performs aerial dance for Flyaway Productions and Project Bandaloop. She was a company member of ODC/Dance from 2003 to 2015 and is the Rehearsal Director for Axis Dance Company. In 2013 and 2014 she premiered work with KT Nelson at Summer Dance Lab in Walla Walla, Washington. She has also produced her choreography at ODC Theater, Z Space and Dance Mission Theater in San Francisco.

Enrico Labayen began his dance career at age 13 in the Philippines before moving to the US, where he studied on full scholarship at the American Ballet Theater School, Ailey’s American Dance Center, Joffrey American Ballet Center and Harkness Ballet. He also studied with Alvin Ailey, Norman Walker, Maggie Black, David Howard, Patricia Wilde, Leon Danielian, Andre Eglevsky, Joanna Haigood and Alonzo King. He performed a wide range of

works from Lucas Hoving, Jose Limon, Rudy Perez, David Parsons and Joanna Haigood, to Petipa and George Balanchine. Labayen has worked with many ballet and modern dance companies, including American Ballet Theater II, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Larry Richardson Dance Company, Rod Rodgers Dance Company, Saeko Ichinohe Dance Company, Garden State Ballet, Hartford Ballet, Eglevsky Ballet and Alonzo King's LINES Ballet. Mr. Labayen has received awards, fellowships & citations from the Beaux Arts Society of New York as "Dancer of the Year"; The Dutch Ministry of Cultural Exchange Fellowship Award, the Asian Institute for Liturgy and Music Residency Fellowship, the "Choreographer of the Year" award by the Manila Chronicle (Philippines); The Isadora Duncan Award for "Outstanding Achievement in Choreography" (1996, USA); the Filipinas Achievement Award (USA)—"His achievement in creating an extensive body of work that has enriched the lives of those who witnessed it, gathering critical and popular acclaim for artistic and cultural endeavors and symbolizing both the accomplishments of Filipino individuals and arts organizations and the challenge of increasing opportunities for minorities in the future." ; The City of Manila's Pillar of Art and Culture for Dance; an ABS-CBN International; Cultural Caregiving Travel Grant to Australia; Guest lecturer at University of New South Wales, Sydney; Residency at Djerassi Artists Residency (US), Rimbun Dahan Artist Residency (Malaysia). He has been named one of the Filipino American Faces of the Century—"...one of the Filipino Americans whose lives celebrate all that the Filipino American is capable of and have truly shaped our history in the United States and given the Filipino Americans and its community the inspiration to realize their dreams".

Ramón Ramos Alayo is a dancer, teacher, choreographer and the founder and artistic director of the Alayo Dance Company and CubaCaribe. Ramos was selected by the Cuban government to study dance in Santiago de Cuba at age eleven. In 1990 he earned a masters degree in contemporary and folkloric dance and dance education from the Havana's National School of Art. He was the principal dancer with Danza del Caribe, Narciso Medina Contemporary Dance Company and performed in Cuba, Europe, Canada, Belize and the U.S. Since moving to California in 1997, he has performed with some of the most respected choreographers in the San Francisco Bay Area, including Robert Henry Johnson, Kim Epifano, Sara Shelton Mann, Joanna Haigood/Zaccho Dance and Robert Moses' Kin. Ramon currently teaches Cuban popular dance, Afro-Cuban modern dance and children's movement at several local dance studios and schools, and is artistic director of Alayo Dance Company and CubaCaribe. In 2002, Ramos founded the Alayo Dance Company. As director

and choreographer, his work is an innovative fusion of Afro-Cuban modern, folkloric and popular Cuban dance. He eloquently articulates his aesthetic vision through a synthesis of these dance styles, citing from each traditions, movements, narratives and concepts indicative of Cuban culture. 2003 Ramos co-founded and became artistic director of CubaCaribe, a non-profit with the mission to preserve and promote the rich cultural and artistic traditions of the Caribbean and its diaspora. Alayo Dance Company is the resident company of CubaCaribe.

CALENDAR LISTING

Please note: Hi-res jpegs are available upon request and are online at dancemission.com.

What:

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