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Media Contact: Stella Adelman

415-826-4441; dancemissiontheater@yahoo.com

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Dance Brigade heads to New York and Cuba

Dance Brigade, San Francisco's premier content-driven, social justice dance company, hits the road this summer after a long touring hiatus

Mendocino College Theater, Ukiah, CA: June 11-12

Dance Theater Workshop, New York, NY: July 7-9

Studio Tisch, New York, NY: July 15-16

Sala Covarrubias, Havana, Cuba: July 22-24

Motiance, Sint Maarten, Antilles: July 29

Lane College Theater, Eugene, OR, October, 22-23

Novellus Theater, YBCA, San Francisco, CA: November, 17-19

San Francisco, CA (Theater TBD): January, 2012

San Francisco (May 27, 2011) - **Dance Brigade**, San Francisco's premier content-driven, social justice dance company, hits the road this summer! Bringing their highly charged, cutting edge, political dance-theater to Ukiah, New York, Havana, Sint Maarten, Eugene and then back to the Bay, Dance Brigade returns to touring after a long hiatus.

Dance Brigade premieres *The Great Liberation Upon Hearing* at **Mendocino College Theater** in **Ukiah, CA (June 11-12)** and at **Dance Theater Workshop** in **New York City, NY (July 7-9)** as part of DTW's Guest Artist Series. Based on the Tibetan Book of the Dead, this multi-media dance drama has been hailed as a "*stunning theatrical venture,*" "*multi-media ecstatic revel,*" and features dancing that is "*profuse, varied and expert.*" Artistic Director **Krissy Keefer** and her impressive, twelve-person multi-cultural cast prove that socially relevant dance can be both widely accessible and technically brilliant. Using Taiko drumming, film, striking dancing and hysterical text, Ms. Keefer takes the audience through the Bardo in this exploration of death and dying in the 21st century.

As part of NYU's Alumni Summer Play Festival, Dance Brigade presents a stage reading of their new play, *The Proud* (working title), **July 15-16** at NYU's **Shubert Theater, Studio Tisch (New York, NY)**. Written by **Aaron Loeb** (*Abraham Lincoln's Big, Gay Dance Party*), directed by **Timothy Near** (director-emeritus, *San Jose Rep*) and choreographed by Krissy Keefer, *The Proud* examines the new face of post-traumatic stress syndrome of Iraq vets attempting to reintegrate into civilian life and explores the growing role of women in the military and the violence perpetuated against them. Dance Brigade is joined on stage by NYU alumni **Lucas**



Near-Verbrugge (fresh from Broadway's *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson*) and San Francisco luminary **Stacy Ross** (*Spring Strom, Iphigenia, Mystic River*). The play debuts in full **January 2012** in **San Francisco**.

Dance Brigade and San Francisco's Afro-Cuban modern dance company, **Alayo Dance Company** (**Ramon Ramos Alayo**, Artistic Director) come together with Santiago de Cuba's **Danza del Caribe** in a weekend of performance **July 22-24** in **Havana, Cuba** at **Sala Covarrubias del Teatro Nacional**. Invited by Cuban-born dancer and choreographer, Ramon Ramos Alayo (2010 **GOLDIE** winner), Dance Brigade will join Alayo Dance Company and Danza del Caribe in the 40th Anniversary Concert of *Sulkary*, a signature work of Santiago choreographer Maestro Eduardo Rivero. This highly stylized Afro-Cuban work set a tone for cross-cultural choreography that fuses Cuban folkloric and modern dance that is still highly prevalent in Cuba today. This celebration will include two new works by Ms. Keefer, including *Swan Song*, which mourns the catastrophic oil spill in the Gulf and the raging wars in the Middle East, and a yet untitled work celebrating the Americas and the revolutionary and artistic efforts of its citizens calling for equality and justice.

Dance Brigade will also be the featured guest artist in the **Motiance International Dance Festival** in **Sint Maarten, Netherlands Antilles**. Motiance Artistic Director, **Arlene Newhouse**, is the former Artistic Director of Pacific Dance Theater of San Francisco. Dance Brigade will both teach and perform during their two-week residency on the island, **July 25-August 5**.

Dance Brigade returns to the West Coast early fall and brings *The Great Liberation Upon Hearing* to **Lane College Theater** in **Eugene, OR (October 22-23)** and finally home, to San Francisco's very own **Yerba Buena Center for the Arts' Novellus Theater** as part of **Dance Brigade's 35th Anniversary Season (November 17-19)**. Dance Brigade artists, Krissy Keefer, Lena Gatchalian, Tina Banchero, Sarah Bush, and Fredrika Keefer with guest artists, Ramon Ramos Alayo, Richelle Donigan, Bruce Ghent, Sonya Smith, Clint Calimlim, Juan De La Rosa, and Folawole take the stage for this homecoming of *Great Liberation*, with choreographic contributions by Sara Shelton Mann, video by Matthew De Gumbia, film by Ellen Bruno, musical direction by Floor Van Herreweghe and Taiko composition by Bruce Ghent.





About Dance Brigade

Described as “politically savage, dramatically rambunctious wonderfully tasteless and utterly brilliant,” Dance Brigade builds community through the arts by creating, presenting, producing, and teaching issue-oriented dance theater that explores complex issues confronting contemporary Americans. To implement this mission, Dance Brigade operates the 140-seat Dance Mission Theater in the heart of San Francisco’s Mission District, supports a six-member professional women’s dance company, produces a series of annual events showcasing emerging and established Bay Area choreographers, and conducts an instructional dance program that serves both adults and youth.

Dance Brigade was founded in 1984 by Nina Fichter and Krissy Keefer, original members of Wallflower Order, to create and perform dance-theater that addresses the complex problems of contemporary American women. For the past 27 years, the company has created, performed, presented and produced issue-oriented dance theater exploring socio-political issues such as violence against women, class injustice, war, racism, breast cancer, sexual abuse and homophobia. The company has created approximately 10 full-length concerts of contemporary dance theater pieces including *Pandora’s Box*, *Ballet of the Banshees*, *Cinderella*, *Queen of Sheba*, *CaveWomen*, *Spell* and has also won numerous awards.

One year after September 11, the Dance Brigade produced *Women Against War: A Vision for Peace* before a capacity audience at the Herbst Theater in San Francisco’s Civic Center, on the very stage where the original United Nations Charter was signed. This event toured to sold-out audiences in the spring of 2003.

During the eighties, the company annually presented *Furious Feet: the Dance Festival for Social Change*. During the late eighties and early nineties, Dance Brigade performed the original *Revolutionary Nutcracker Sweetie* before 40,000 ticket buyers, re-telling Tchaikovsky’s classic ballet through a variety of modern dance forms, a jazz score and a multicultural cast. Unlike most modern dance, this concert-length work succeeded in attracting large audiences because it was accessible to the average person. Since 1987, the company’s collaborators have included Ferron, Terry Sendgraff, Sara Shelton Mann, Mary Watkins, Kim Epifano, Amelia Rudolph and Project Bandaloop. At Dance Mission the Dance Brigade regularly presents an aerial dance festival, *SkyDancers: Women who Fly Through the Air*.

In 1998, under the executive and artistic direction of Krissy Keefer, the company began operating the 140-seat Dance Mission Theater at 24th and Mission Streets, which has evolved into one of the region’s leading contemporary dance spaces. At this venue Dance Brigade produces its original work, conducts a multicultural dance instruction program for youth and adults and rents space to other companies and choreographers for performances, classes and rehearsals.



CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE

The Great Liberation Upon Hearing

Dance Brigade presents The Great Liberation Upon Hearing, a new multimedia dance-drama based on the Tibetan Book of the Dead

Mendocino College Theater
1000 Hensley Creek Road, Ukiah, CA 95482
June 11 @ 8 pm, June 12 @ 2 pm
Tickets: \$15 adults, \$8 youth 18 and younger
www.spaceperformingarts.org

Dance Theater Workshop
219 West 19th Street, NY NY 1011
July 7-9 @ 7:30 pm; July 9 @ 2 pm
Tickets: \$20 adults, \$15 seniors
www.dancetheaterworkshop.org

Lane College Theater
4000 E. 30th Ave., Eugene OR 97405
October 22-23
Tickets: TBD

Novellus Theater, Yerba Buena Center For the Arts
701 Mission Street, San Francisco CA 94102
November 17-19
Tickets: TBD
www.ybca.org

The Proud

Dance Brigade presents a stage reading of the new play by Aaron Loeb examining post-traumatic stress syndrome of returning Iraq Vets

NYU's Shubert Theater, Studio Tisch
721 Broadway, NY NY 10003
July 15 @ 6 pm, July 16 @ 9 pm
gradactingalumni.org

For more information please visit www.dancebrigade.org or call 415-826-4441