

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: Sophie Shapiro, Communications Associate

sophie@heididuckler.org

775-622-2339

Heidi Duckler Dance

presents

Ages Take Action: Give the Vaccine a Shot!



Stills from the film Ages Take Action, edited by Associate Artistic Director Himerria Wortham

LOS ANGELES (July 22, 2021) – Los Angeles-based dance company Heidi Duckler Dance (HDD) presents *Ages Take Action: Give the Vaccine a Shot!*, the first in a series of PSA screening and panel discussions regarding COVID-19 and the COVID-19 vaccine. Our first screening will be held at the Watts Labor Community Action Committee on Thursday, July 29 at 7pm.

Ages Take Action is a PSA short film created in collaboration with Martin Luther King, Jr. Outpatient Center at the MLK Community Hospital Campus (MLK). The score for the film was produced by Los Angeles Unified School District students enrolled in music production classes with Young Producers Group. *Ages Take Action* is the collaborative effort of a long-standing partnership between Heidi Duckler Dance and MLK. As the campus' current artist in residence, HDD joined together medical providers at MLK, community members in the Watts/Willowbrook area, and HDD teaching artists and dancers to create a fun dance film with important messaging from MLK staff and providers such as Chief Medical Officer, Ellen Rothman, M.D., regarding the COVID-19 vaccine. *Ages Take Action* was created to provide both an artistic and personal approach to dissemination of vaccine information, because although there exists an abundance of vaccines and resources many have yet to be vaccinated, indicating the necessity

of a new approach to reach them and address their reservations. This project was infused with the ideals of bringing vitality, joy and a renewed sense of community as we exit a time lacking in each, with firm knowledge that the COVID-19 vaccine is our gateway to keeping our community healthy, thriving, and vibrant!

Ages Take Action will be distributed throughout the Watts/Willowbrook community through several free and public community screenings, and throughout the county to serve as an organizational tool toward increasing vaccination rates. The goal is to create a public space for community members' voices to be heard regarding their vaccination concerns, to increase scientifically backed and first-hand knowledge of the vaccine and its effects, to assist those needing help navigating where and how to get vaccinated, and to combat the disproportionate effects COVID-19 is having on BIPOC communities.

Our first screening will be hosted at the Watts Labor Community Action Committee, attendees will view the *Ages Take Action* video and hear from and ask questions to a panel composed of MLK medical providers, COVID-19 vaccine recipients, and vaccinated community representatives. Additionally, press and attendees will be able to meet and greet those featured in the video, such as Dr. Jasmine Eugenio, Dr. Ellen Rothman, and other Martin Luther King Jr. Outpatient Center providers. Many of Heidi Duckler Dance's featured artists and staff will be there as well, such as Alyse Rockett, Kaitwan Jackson, Himerria Wortham, and Heidi Duckler.

More information about *Ages Take Action* and future screenings of the video are available on Heidi Duckler Dance's website.

RSVP for FREE: <https://heididuckler.org/event/ages-take-action/>

Details for Calendar Listings:

What: *Ages Take Action: Give the Vaccine a Shot!*

Who: Heidi Duckler Dance x Martin Luther King, Jr. Outpatient Center at the MLK Community Hospital Campus

When: Thursday, July 29th @ 7pm

Where: Watts Labor Community Action Committee; 10950 S. Central Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90059

Heidi Duckler Dance (HDD) is rooted in democratic dance, art education and spatial justice, creating site specific work since 1985.



Heidi Duckler, Founder/Artistic Director of Heidi Duckler Dance

Heidi Duckler is the Artistic Director and founder of Heidi Duckler Dance in Los Angeles, California and Heidi Duckler Dance/Northwest in Portland, Oregon. Titled the “reigning queen of site-specific performance” by the LA Times, Duckler is a pioneer of site specific place based contemporary practice. Through the use of expanded techniques and a methodology that encourages us to understand how dance, born from our experience, can be a tool for awareness, Duckler has contributed to redefining the field and has created more than 400 dance pieces all over the world. Duckler earned a BS in Dance from the University of Oregon and an MA in Choreography from UCLA, and is currently a Board Member of the University of Oregon's School of Music and Dance Advancement Council. Awards include the Distinguished Dance Alumna award from the University of Oregon School of Music and Dance, the Dance/USA and the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation's Engaging Dance Audiences award, and the National Endowment of the Arts American Masterpiece award. Duckler was a recipient of the 2019 Oregon Dance Film Commission and her work received the award for Best Choreography For the Lens at Verve Dance Film Festival. Currently, she is the recipient of the 2021 Oregon Arts Commission Fellowship. Her dances invite us to reconsider the space we live in, the space we take up, and this helps us to communicate our personal experience to others, to speak up, to inspire, to incorporate hard truths into the vulnerable body and pursue the search for empathetic connectivity.

About Heidi Duckler Dance:

Initially founded in 1985, HDD is a pioneer in producing interdisciplinary performances. The company develops and rehearses each multi-sensory experience in the site where the work is performed. HDD advances social equity in under-resourced communities by providing opportunities for audience members and students to interact with meaningful spaces, both public and private, that they may not otherwise have access to. These innovative experiences allow participants to view these places, and their communities, in new and interesting ways. Over the past 34 years, HDD's Artistic Director, Heidi Duckler, has created over 300 original works locally, nationally and internationally, including in many LA neighborhoods such as: Downtown LA (the Historic Core, Arts District, Produce District and Fashion District), Boyle Heights, Koreatown, Studio City, Van Nuys, Hollywood, Venice, San Pedro and South LA.

Duckler's work has been internationally recognized in Hong Kong (Hong Kong Urban Arts Festival 2007), Russia (Link Vostok International East-West Arts Exchange 2010), Montreal (Transatlantique Quartier 2013), Germany (Tanzmesse, 2014 and 2018), Australia (Brisbane Festival 2014), Cuba (Ciudad en Movimiento 2016) and Chile (Puerto de Ideas 2018). This year HDD was awarded grants for upcoming performances and arts education initiatives including; LA County Arts Commission, Dance/USA and Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and awards from the California Community Foundation, James Irvine Foundation, California Arts Council, LA Dept of Cultural Affairs, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Green Foundation, DEW Foundation, Annenberg Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts. HDD produces over 25 original productions each year, and over 4,000 diverse residents are served annually.



MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
MULTI-SERVICE AMBULATORY CARE CENTER

About Martin Luther King, Jr. Outpatient Center at the MLK Community Hospital Campus:

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Medical Campus is a 42-acre site located in the unincorporated community of Willowbrook and serves residents throughout South Los Angeles. The new, state-of-the-art MLK Community Hospital and the new County-operated Outpatient Center will serve as anchors for the Medical Campus.

The Medical Campus also includes County-operated facilities that provide outpatient and public health services. The MLK Outpatient Center provides a range of services, including general medicine, cardiology, dermatology, dentistry, geriatrics, HIV and AIDS treatment services, neurology, orthopedics and physical therapy, and mental health services. In addition, the MLK Center for Public Health provides the community with public health services such as immunizations, testing and treatment for tuberculosis and sexually transmitted diseases, case management, and health promotion programming.



About Young Producers Group:

The mission of Young Producers Group (YPG) is to improve the creative, cultural, and academic skill sets of students through project-based, interactive, digital music instruction. We are dedicated to fostering fun and creative environments for young people to learn how to make the types of music they actually listen to. Hip hop, techno, and other styles of electronic music become tools for young people to connect across socioeconomic boundaries. Collaboration and musical development are vehicles for personal and social growth with YPG.

We seek to revitalize and reimagine what music education can be in the modern world. Using 21st century tools, our curricula fit the interests of the young people in our classes.



About WATTS LABOR COMMUNITY ACTION COMMITTEE (WLCAC):

Watts Labor Community Action Committee is a 501(c)3 nonprofit, a community-based organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for South Los Angeles residents.

WLCAC is working to actively ensure the safety, health, and preparedness of our staff, partners, and the neighbors we serve as we all face the Coronavirus pandemic. We have continued our progress towards achieving our mission by building the community, building families, serving people, and speaking out about current issues.

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