

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Heidi Duckler Dance

presents

The Chandelier



Graphic design by Traci Larson featuring Rush Varela photography and actor Paula Rebelo

LOS ANGELES (July 19th, 2021) – Los Angeles-based dance company Heidi Duckler Dance (HDD) presents the world premiere of *The Chandelier* at The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts on August 12th through 15th at 8pm. *The Chandelier*, a site-specific work choreographed and directed by HDD's Founder/Artistic Director Heidi Duckler, will run for four nights on The Wallis' pop-up outdoor stage.

The Chandelier is an epic site-specific journey created specifically for The Wallis. The piece is based on the novel of the same name: *The Chandelier* by Brazilian author Clarice Lispector. Lispector is considered one of the greatest female writers of the 20th century. Her prose is

complex and embedded with meaning, and only Heidi Duckler has the nuance and brilliance to bring it to life with movement. HDD's *The Chandelier* is non-traditional and place-based and provides a new look at this tragic coming-of-age story told from the perspective of a young girl. Duckler animates the book's interior monologues and devises characters from odd fragments of dialogue to create a moving portrait of a family living amid the ruins of a colonial society. Through layers of imagery, acts of repetition, and the architecture of the Wallis itself, Duckler explores the contrasting ideas of impermanence and the irrevocable.

The Chandelier was originally slated to be premiered at the Wallis in Spring of 2020, but was postponed due to the pandemic. Over the past year, HDD explored the possibilities for the work through a Zoom performance titled *Illuminating the Chandelier*. Reflecting on the text in the virtual space was challenging and rewarding, revealing hidden depths to the text. More about this creative process and exploration of online site-specific work can be viewed in HDD's original behind-the-scenes film *The Making of Illuminating the Chandelier*, filmed and edited by Nicolas Savignano.

The company is excited to expand on what was created then with new movement and utilization of space in the non-traditional, site-specific way that HDD always does. In this past year, the performance has transformed and in response to the nature of the pandemic has adopted a national feel. Dancers from around the country, including the Pacific Northwest, Minneapolis, Nashville, and Chicago, are joining together in Los Angeles to put up this special piece of theater. The piece is set to an original composition for the cello by Isaac Takeuchi, who will be performing live and accompanying the dancers. HDD and The Wallis, two landmark institutions in Los Angeles, are excited to come together and finally share this unique and wonderful piece, the first live dance performance to grace The Wallis since the pandemic!

Buy tickets at: <https://thewallis.org/HDD>

General admission -- \$50.00

Watch *The Making of Illuminating the Chandelier*: <https://vimeo.com/430892661>

Details for Calendar Listings:

What: The Chandelier

Who: Heidi Duckler Dance

When: August 12th through August 15th at 8pm

Where: The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts; 9390 N Santa Monica Blvd.
Beverly Hills, CA 90210 United States

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

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 35 years, HDD's Artistic Director, Heidi Duckler, has created over 400 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.



Heidi Duckler, Founder/Artistic Director

Heidi Duckler is the Founder and Artistic Director 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 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 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.



The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts

The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts is a dynamic cultural hub and community resource where local, national and international artists share their artistry with ever-expanding audiences. The campus, located in the heart of Beverly Hills, CA, is committed to robust and distinctive presentations and education programs curated with both creativity and social impact in mind.

Distinguished by its eclectic programming that mirrors the diverse landscape of Los Angeles and its location in the entertainment capital of the world, The Wallis has produced and presented more than 275 dance, theater, opera, classical music, cinema and family programs since its doors opened in October 2013. Hailed as "au courant" (LaLa Magazine), The Wallis was lauded by Culture Vulture, which proclaims, "If you love expecting the unexpected in the performing arts, you have to love The Wallis." Its programming has been nominated for 48 Ovation Awards and seven L.A. Drama Critic's Circle Awards. The campus itself, a breathtaking 70,000-square-foot facility, celebrating the classic and the modern, has garnered six architectural awards.

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