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**Heidi Duckler Dance
Presents
Ebb & Flow @ The Creek**



HDD Ebb & Flow: Culver City 2022 | Choreographer: Caitlin Javech | Photo by Rush Varela

LOS ANGELES (August 29, 2023) – Los Angeles-based performance company Heidi Duckler Dance (HDD) will host its beloved Ebb & Flow community arts festival at Ballona Creek in Culver City on Saturday, September 23 at 10:00 am and 11:00 am. *Ebb & Flow @ The Creek* is a free, family-friendly community arts festival that explores climate change, nature, humanity, and health through dance, visual arts, music, and technology.

For this installment, HDD is teaming up with Ballona Creek Renaissance (BCR), a Culver City non-profit dedicated to reviving Ballona Creek and its watershed. *Ebb & Flow @ The Creek* will be part of [Heal the Bay's 2023 Coastal Cleanup Day](#), so attendees can both view the performances and take the time to actively improve the local environment.

"An immersive experience that brings together local performance artists, environmental advocates and the Ballona Creek, Heidi Duckler Dance's *Ebb & Flow @ The Creek* will reexamine our never-ending relationship with ever-flowing communities, the environment we inhabit and how we can be the stepping stone for a cleaner future," said Shoji Yamasaki, the event's creative director.

Heidi Duckler Dance is thrilled to be featuring work by local artists Braden Pontoli, Gunita Collective, Zhihan Yang, HDD's Associate Artistic Director Raymond Ejiofor, and Artistic Director Heidi Duckler.

"It takes a courageous artist to create work in this unpredictable environment," Duckler said. "A site like a creek is constantly flowing and changing, collecting items as it goes. Our job as artists is to cause audiences to notice, to care, and to activate change."

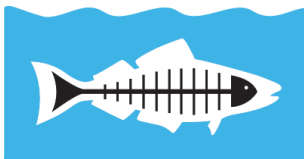
Guests will be in for a treat as they can experience the art and lend a helping hand in cleaning up the creek. Join us at *Ebb & Flow @ The Creek* on Saturday, September 23rd, 2023 at the base of the Julian Dixon Library. Performances will begin at 10:00 am and 11:00 am. Early check-in is recommended.

For high resolution photos, please contact Marketing Coordinator Sharice Bryant at sharice@heididuckler.org



This performance is made possible in part by the City of Culver City and its Cultural Affairs Commission, with support from Sony Pictures Entertainment and the Culver City Arts Foundation.

Heidi Duckler Dance expresses a special thanks to Ballona Creek Renaissance and Heal the Bay.



Heal the Bay



Details for Calendar Listings:

What: Heidi Duckler Dance's Ebb & Flow @ The Creek

Who: Heidi Duckler Dance in partnership with [Ballona Creek Renaissance](#) and [Heal the Bay](#)

When: Saturday, September 23, 2023; performances at 10:00 am and 11:00 am (early check-in is recommended)

Where: Overland Ave on the Creek (at the base of the Julian Dixon Library)
4975 Overland Ave
Culver City, CA 90230

RSVP: [online](#)

About Heidi Duckler Dance:

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 by providing opportunities for audience members to interact with meaningful spaces, both public and private, that they may not otherwise be able to access.

HDD's innovative experiences allow participants to view spaces in new and illuminating ways. In the past 38 years, HDD Founder and Artistic Director Heidi Duckler has created over 500 original works locally, nationally and internationally. Performance sites include 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), Canada (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 from organizations and individuals, including: LA County Department of Arts and Culture; the City of LA Department of Cultural Affairs; New Music/USA; the Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation; the City of Ojai; the City of West Hollywood; the City of Culver City; the Green Foundation; Jerry Kohl; Olga Garay-English; the California Community Foundation – LA Arts Recovery Fund; GROW Annenberg Foundation; and the National Endowment for the Arts. HDD produces over 40 original productions annually, and thousands of diverse residents are served by its educational initiatives each year.

Visit <http://www.heididuckler.org> for more information.

About Ballona Creek Renaissance:

Ballona Creek Renaissance (BCR) is a Culver City-based non-profit organization dedicated to facilitating the long-term renewal of Ballona Creek and its watershed. In partnership with public agencies, non-profit organizations, schools, businesses and community members, BCR promotes environmental, artistic, recreational and educational projects while respecting the creek's essential role in regional flood protection.

About Heal the Bay:

Heal the Bay is an environmental nonprofit established in 1985 that is dedicated to making the coastal waters and watersheds in Greater Los Angeles safe, healthy, and clean. HTB uses science, education, community action, and advocacy to fulfill its mission. For more than three decades, HTB has been a strong and trusted advocate for the Santa Monica Bay, but HTB also protects the Los Angeles coastline, restores LA waterways, and enacts clean water policy to protect public health in Los Angeles.



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 is a pioneer of place-based contemporary practice. Her methodology emphasizes how dance, born from individual experience, can be a tool for awareness.

Duckler’s 2019 short film “Where We’re Going” was recently selected for the 2023 Aphelion Film Festival, and her 2022 film “The Tender Bondy Sings” was selected for the 2023 IndieFEST Film Awards Festival. In September, Duckler will speak at the Creatives in Conversation Conference held by the American Institute of Architects’ Los Angeles chapter. Currently, Duckler is on faculty at the University of California, Santa Barbara in the Film and Media Studies Department.

Duckler earned a BS in dance from the University of Oregon and an MA in choreography from UCLA. She also served as a board member of the University of Oregon’s School of Music and Dance Advancement Council. Her 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.

Raymond Ejiofor, Associate Artistic Director

Raymond Ejiofor began his dance training under Judith Rhodes Calgaro in Arlington, VA and the Dance Theater of Harlem. He has since danced for artists such as Katy Perry, Sia, Pharrell Williams, Dua Lipa, and Daft Punk.

Under the direction of Greer Reed, Ejiofor was a founding member of August Wilson Center Dance Ensemble. Ejiofor also collaborates with various companies in Los Angeles. In 2023, he was named the Associate Artistic Director of Heidi Duckler Dance after finishing his time as artist in residence with the company.



As a teaching artist, Ejiofor has been a faculty member/master class instructor at a number of studios and universities in Los Angeles and the Greater Pittsburgh region, including AMDA Los Angeles, the

University of Southern California, Carnegie Mellon University, and the University of Pittsburgh. A dynamic supporter of the arts, Ejiofor served on the Board of Directors for HDAT in Pittsburgh, PA.

Ejiofor holds a masters of public health policy from the University of Southern California and is a recipient of the Gates Millennium Fellowship. He graduated from Carnegie Mellon University with a BS in Decision Science and double minor in engineering studies and technology and policy.



Shoji Yamasaki, Event Creative Director

Shoji Yamasaki is a multidisciplinary choreographer, performer, director and filmmaker. He was born and raised on the unceded ancestral land of the Gabrielino-Tongva people, recently known as Los Angeles.

Yamasaki received his BA in world arts and cultures (dance concentration) with a minor in Spanish from UCLA in 2011. In 2023, he received his MFA in choreography from California Institute of the Arts.

In June 2023, Yamasaki performed in Chanel's Métier d'art Replica Show at Tokyo Big Sight, directed and choreographed by Dimitri Chamblas. Yamasaki's works have been presented in Conservatorio de Danza México in Mexico, Meatball and Meshed Potatoes in Korea and across the U.S., including at the Jerry Moss Plaza, the Roy and Edna Disney/CalArts Theater (REDCAT), Electric Lodge, Pieter Performance Space and Gibney Dance.

Yamasaki's current interests are in site-specific and immersive experiences that allow the audience to suspend their disbelief. Through this work, he encourages viewers to become storytellers themselves by integrating their own personal experiences.

Braden Pontoli, Artist

Braden Pontoli is a Los Angeles-based musician, composer, sound artist, producer, conductor and educator. His music and immersive experiences are meditative, invigorating and energizing to audiences.

Pontoli's recent projects include collaborations with producer Peter Rafelson (Madonna, Stevie Wonder, Elton John) and scoring and editing the podcast "The Last Saturday Night" (Ed Asner,



Sherilyn Fenn, Eric Roberts). His music can be heard on many independent film scores and modern dance company performances. In April, he released his first sound and movement sculpture with MorrisonDance for their 25th anniversary show.

Pontoli holds an MFA in music performance and composition from California Institute of the Arts and a BM in music education from Baldwin Wallace University Conservatory of Music.

Gunita Collective, Artist

Gunita Collective is a multidisciplinary Pilipinx artist collective exploring the intersection of contemporary indigenous narrative and performance. At its core, Gunita stands for communal and collective memory.

Founded by Noelle Marie Falcis-Math, Gunita uses movement artistry, visual expression and narrative storytelling. Through its work, the collective aims to foster conversations about re-memory and intergenerational language. Not wholly movement-oriented nor fully theory-oriented, Gunita merges the academic and the creative, attempting to find the middle ground between different languages. Gunita challenges its artists and audience to connect cultural values and historical presence with contemporary environments.



Zhihan Yang, Artist

Los Angeles-based choreographer, dancer and educator Zhihan Yang received her MFA from California Institute of the Arts and BFA from Beijing Dance Academy. She is dedicated to researching the relationship between movement, installation and multimedia. Yang also explores the different forms of the body on camera and the reflection of identity between communities in different contexts.

Yang has been active in theater, media, film and education in recent years, working with companies such as the Pacific Symphony Orchestra, the Los Angeles Museum of Art, the Yaya Dance Academy and the San Musae Cultural Center. Her recent works include the orchestral trio choreography "THEA MUSGRAVE: Pierrot" (2023), the dance theater "Am I Susan" (2022), the physical theater "XXX" (2022), the quintet "Gladiola" (2021), and the dance films "Question" (2022), "Rush" (2021), "Refresh" (2021) and "Retrospect" (2021).

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