

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: Sharice Bryant
MARKETING COORDINATOR

Sharice@heididuckler.org

(213) 373-0366

**Heidi Duckler Dance
Presents
CURRENT: 38th Anniversary Celebration**



Image by Sophie Akoury | Graphic Design by Traci Larson

LOS ANGELES (October 7, 2023) - Los Angeles-based dance company Heidi Duckler Dance (HDD) is delighted to unveil its 38th Annual Celebration, **CURRENT**, set to take place on Saturday, October 7, 2023, at 5 pm, within the captivating confines of a historic warehouse in the vibrant Arts District of Los Angeles.

This spectacular evening promises a delightful fusion of artistry and community spirit, featuring a cocktail reception, dinner, and an awards ceremony that will honor the outstanding contributions of prominent LA community members, Snehal Desai, Olga Garay-English, and Mia Lehrer.

Adding to the enchantment, the night will come alive with two new immersive performances choreographed and directed by Heidi Duckler and Raymond Ejiofor featuring HDD dancers and musicians, weaving together mesmerizing movement and melody.

The celebration will be enriched by additional performances by St. Mary's Academy Alumni, Laila Anderson, and students from A Place Called Home and Mendez High School.

Join us for a transformative evening where art and community unite, where the boundaries of space and creativity dissolve, and where inclusivity and accessibility take center stage ~ Be a part of our collective journey towards a more vibrant and equitable cultural landscape!

Details for Calendar Listings

CURRENT | 38th Anniversary Celebration

Who: Heidi Duckler Dance

When: Saturday, October 7, 2023, 5 PM-8:30 PM

Where: Arts District Warehouse | 205 S. Mission Rd. Los Angeles, CA, 90033

RSVP at: <https://tinyurl.com/5327ckcc>

*Tiered [sponsorship levels](#) are available for companies and organizations to support Heidi Duckler Dance.



*Heidi Duckler Dance (HDD) is rooted in Freedom, Community, and Inclusivity
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 illuminating ways. Over the past 35 years, HDD's Artistic Director, Heidi Duckler, has created over 500 original works locally, nationally and internationally, including 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 Department of Arts and Culture, City of LA Department of Cultural Affairs, New Music/USA, Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation, City of Ojai, City of West Hollywood and Culver City, Green Foundation, Jerry Kohl, Olga Garay-English, California Community Foundation - Arts Recovery, GROW Annenberg Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts. HDD produces over 40 original productions each year, and thousands of diverse residents are served annually.

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

HONOREES



Snehal Desai | Artistic Vision Award

Incoming Artistic Director of Center Theatre Group
Snehal Desai is the incoming Artistic Director of Center Theatre Group (CTG), one of the largest regional theaters in the country. He is a champion of building community through compelling, transformative artistic works. Snehal comes to CTG, after seven years as the Producing Artistic Director of East West Players, designated an American Cultural Treasure by the Ford Foundation and the nation's largest and oldest Asian-American theater company. A Soros Fellow and the recipient of a Tanne Award, Desai was in the Inaugural Class of Theatre Communications Group's (TCG) "Spark" Leadership Program and the Inaugural Recipient of the Drama League's Classical Directing Fellowship.



Olga Garay-English | Civic Engagement Award

International Arts Consultant & Director of the National Latinx Theater Initiative Olga Garay-English is an international arts consultant, a role she embraced in 2014. Ms. Garay-English is a Director of the National Latinx Theater Initiative, which provides multi-year General Operating Support grants and professional development opportunities to Latinx theaters in the U.S. and Puerto Rico. Olga is Senior Advisor for International Affairs to Chile's Fundación Teatro a Mil. She also serves as the consultant for the Artistic Directors of Color Alliance – Greater Los Angeles.

Ms. Garay-English was Executive Director of the Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (2008-2014), reporting to Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa. While at DCA, she raised more than \$23 million from private and public funding sources.



Mia Lehrer | Board Impact Award

Mia Lehrer, FASLA is president and founder of Studio-MLA, an international landscape architecture, planning, and urban design practice based in Los Angeles and San Francisco. Drawing insight from ecological systems, Mia is recognized for a research-based design process that advocates for resilient and just relationships between individuals, communities, and nature. She has led ambitious public and private projects including Inglewood's SoFi Stadium and associated public parks, Dallas's Fair Park Community Park, San Francisco's Levi's Plaza, the Public

Gardens at the LA County Natural History Museum, and many urban river-related planning projects including the Rio Tietê in São Paulo, the LA River Taylor Yard G2 Park, and the Upper LA River & Tributaries Revitalization Plan. A native of El Salvador and educated at Tufts University and the Harvard University GSD, she is the recipient of the Cooper Hewitt/Smithsonian Design Museum's 2021 National Design Award for Landscape Architecture, Commissioner on the LA Department of Water & Power, and served on President Obama's U.S. Commission of Fine Arts from 2014-2018.

ARTISTS



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, a Gates Millennium Fellow, earned a Masters of Public Health Policy from USC and his B.S. in Decision Science from Carnegie Mellon University. Ejiofor has danced and collaborated with Daniel Ezralow, Ryan Heffington, Aszure Barton, David Roussève/REALITY, Bryan Arias, Danielle Agami, Kyle Abraham and Robert Battle. Some of his credits include the Grammy Awards, MTV VMAs, American Music Awards, Audi, Hermès, Samsung, Apple, Netflix, Hulu, Nickelodeon, Beijing Dance Festival and Lincoln Center: David H. Koch Theater. He has performed with artists such as P!NK, Sia, Katy Perry, Pharrell, The Weekend, Kim Petras, Dua Lipa, and Daft Punk. Choreography commissions include Heidi Duckler Dance, August Wilson Center Dance Ensemble, Berkeley Ballet Theater,

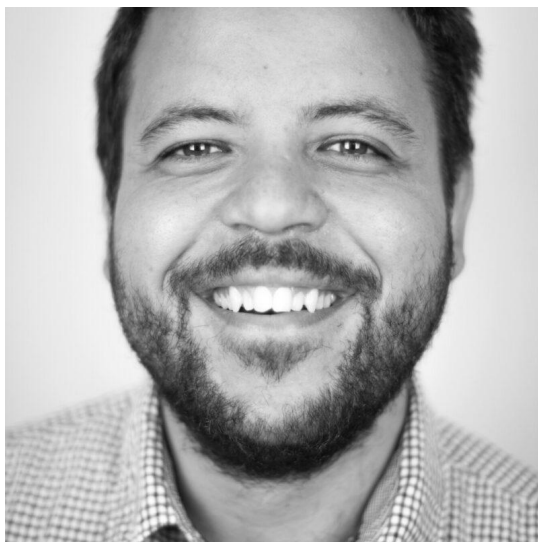
and Paper Doll Militia touring aerial production "Warped". He has choreographed projects for artists including Little Boots, Robot Koch, GirlvBoy, and Oddnesse. Ejiofor was the 2023 Artist in Residence with HDD serving as a choreographer and collaborating creative producer for the organizations. He is currently the Associate Artistic Director of Heidi Duckler Dance.



Justin Scheid | Musician

Justin Scheid is a musician, composer, teacher, and production technician based in Long Beach, California. Since graduating from California Institute of the Arts with a Masters Degree in Music Composition, most of Justin's musical work has fallen between two major outlets: live electronic performance and dance collaboration. As a performer, Justin utilizes analog and digital technologies to create interactive and improvisational sound environments within a venue space. Believing each space is inherently unique, he strives to make each performance as unique as the venue itself. As a composer, he frequently collaborates with L.A.-based dance companies such as Iris Company and Dance Aegis (now based in Atlanta, Georgia), and has recently worked with renowned choreographer Heidi Duckler in a production at the Ford Theater in Hollywood. Justin

currently teaches music technology at Rio Hondo College and Chapman University, and teaches music at the Sharon Lund Dance School at California Institute of the Arts. In addition to teaching, Justin spends his free time building stages and operating soundboards for various production companies around L.A. When not building stages, he enjoys building homemade synthesizers.



Omar Madkour | Lighting Designer

Omar is a lighting designer from Cairo, Egypt. His designs in theatre and dance have been presented in the United States, Egypt as well as multiple venues and festivals across Europe. During the pandemic, Omar tapped into architectural lighting, and he is currently the full-time lighting technician for The Academy Museum of Motion Pictures



Kamyi Lee | Creative Technologist

Kam Ying (Kamyi) Lee is a Los Angeles-based video engineer for immersive experiences and themed entertainment. She is also an interactive and video designer for live performances and has worked both nationally and internationally in theater, dance and concerts.. Artistically Kamyi is an award winning interdisciplinary artist who is deeply invested in contemporary and experimental uses of digital media. She has exhibited her digital art installations in various museums and galleries. Kamyi is the founder of Macau-based creative design studio Atelier Cocorico and has a Master of Fine Arts in Interactive Media for Performance from the California Institute of the Arts. cocorico.mo



Corey Fogel | Musician

Corey Fogel (b. 1977) is a drummer and artist living in Los Angeles, CA. His practice is based in momentary encounters between music and objects, textiles, foods, and other collaborators. Fogel engages the viewer to consider sound as a medium on par with paint and cellulose, a constant in our daily lives. He challenges us to consider the contexts in which we create, store, and understand music performance.

Fogel's works have been presented at Machine Project, Los Angeles; Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Human Resources, Los Angeles; Redling Fine Art, Los Angeles; The Wulf, Los Angeles; The Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; the Museo de Arte Contemporaneo de Oaxaca, REDCAT; Los Angeles; and New Music for Strings Festival: Reykjavik. His performance work was also included in J. Paul Getty Museum's Pacific Standard Time Performance and Public Art Festival and West of Rome's Trespass Parade. Corey was awarded The California Community Foundation 2014 Fellowship in Visual Arts. [link](#)

Fogel also performs and composes in many rock, jazz, noise, folk, and chamber music capacities. Recent collaborations include: Julia Holter, Tashi Wada, Patty Waters, Abigail Levine, Simone Forti, Raven Chacon, Yoshi Wada, Michael Winter, Robert Blatt, Maya Dunietz, John Butcher, John Russell, Todd Barton, Misha Marks, Brian Allen, Alexander Bruck, Patrick Shiroishi, Haley Fohr, Liz Glynn, Chris Speed, Mark Dresser, Kathleen Kim, Ezra Buchla, Tony Malaby, Devin Hoff, John Dieterich, Carlin Wing, Sam Mickens.



Tomoko Ozawa | Musician

Pianist and composer Tomoko Ozawa is a fresh voice from Japan, raised in international settings. A graduate of Berklee College of Music and Longy School of Music, her music crosses genre borders, combining lyricism with European contemporary classical music and rhythmic elements of Jazz. Her debut album “Gentian” accentuates the insightful words of Emily Dickinson with instrumental compositions and playful improvisation, and was produced by her mentor, pianist and composer Vadim Neselovskyi. She was invited to be a guest artist at the annual conference of the Emily Dickinson International Society, and her music has been played on radio and podcasts in the US, UK and the Netherlands. Tomoko completed her PhD degree in Integrated Composition, Improvisation and Technology at the University of California, Irvine in 2022. Her solo project for piano and interactive programming won the 2022 Ran Blake Foundation “Earobic” Award.



Sophie Akoury | Set Designer

Sophie Akoury is a Lebanese architect and designer currently working in Los Angeles. She graduated from the Lebanese Academy of Fine Arts – ALBA in 2019 and she continued her studies at the Southern California Institute of Architecture – SCI-Arc. Her master's project, entitled 51 miles + 25 km = 13 feet , in which she proposes a parallelism between the Los Angeles River and the Beirut River, won the Frank Gehry Prize in 2022. Sophie Akoury regularly participates as a guest juror in competitions at SCI-Arc, Pratt Institute and Syracuse University.

###