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**Heidi Duckler Dance**

**presents**

***Truth or Consequences: Belonging in the World***

LOS ANGELES (November 10, 2023) – Los Angeles-based dance company Heidi Duckler Dance (HDD) is pleased to announce the first salon as part of our renowned series, ***Truth or Consequences***, a curated series of transdisciplinary salons at the historic Bendix Building in Downtown Los Angeles. *Belonging in the World*, an evening of performance, interactive installation, and live music that will take place on Sunday, December 10, 2023 from 6 pm-8 pm at the Bendix Building.

Guests will be engulfed in live music, performance, and visual design. In this heavy and shifting world we live in, this evening offers us a space to come together by holding a shared experience and recovering something we may have lost. Complimentary spirits and burritos will be served at the venue.

*Truth or Consequences: Belonging in the World* explores finding a profound connection and acceptance within the intricate tapestry of human existence, where one's unique identity harmoniously integrates with the diverse threads of shared humanity.

This salon celebrates the way we seek connection as people with multiple perspectives. How do we accept ourselves, how do we extend ourselves to others?

Through music, movement, culture, composition, and the sharing of our table, we invest in each other and devise new arrangements to foster human bonds.

*"Discover a world where individuality seamlessly intertwines with the rich fabric of shared humanity—Experience the essence of true belonging with us."*

*This program is supported, in part, by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors through the Department of Arts and Culture and the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs.*



*Catering is provided by Burritos La Palma.*

**Details for Calendar Listings:**

What: *Truth or Consequences: Belonging in the World*

Who: Heidi Duckler Dance

When: Sunday, December 10, 2023 from 6:00 pm-8:00 pm

Where: Bendix Building, 1206 Maple Ave, STE 1100B, Los Angeles, CA 90015

Cost: \$35 General Admission / \$20 Students + Seniors

Tickets: <https://heididuckler.app.neoncrm.com/np/clients/heididuckler/eventRegistration.jsp?event=297&>

*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. Heidi Duckler Dance 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 500

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 just to name a few. 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).

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



### **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 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 was the recipient of the 2021 Oregon Arts Commission Fellowship and most recently, her film “Where We’re Going” has been selected for first prize by the Cinedanza Festival jury amongst 28 films from around the world. “Where We’re Going” was also selected for the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) Digital Media Wall in their new building in downtown Sacramento, scheduled to premiere in 2022. 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, and served as 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.



### **Raymond Ejiofor | Associate Artistic Director**

Raymond Ejiofor began his dance training under Judith Rhodes Calgareo 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.



### **Jiryis Murkus Ballan | Musician**

Palestinian composer, Buzuq player, performer, and musical director, Jiryis, grew up in Nazareth in the Galilee region. Ballan completed his M.A. studies in the music composition program at SUNY Buffalo as a Fulbright Scholar where he studied with composers Jonathan Golove and Cort Lippe, and focused on concert music, and music for modern dance. Jiryis co-directs The Caravan Orchestra and Choir project, an intercultural orchestra of young Palestinian, Jewish and German musicians based in Germany. Before joining the Department of Music at UCI, he worked as a research

assistant at the Music Department of the University of Haifa, researching The Urban Arab Palestinian Wedding Music in the Galilee region and the *maqam*-based music. His research was on the inclusion of the synthesizer in traditional Arab Palestinian music wedding ensembles. Currently Jiryis is Ph.D. student in the program of Composition, Improvisation and Technology at The University of California, Irvine. His research focuses on the creation of a virtual Buzuq, while using hidden sounds that he discovered with the instrument's body and soundboard.



### **Tong Guan | Filmmaker & Architect**

Tong Guan is a trained Architect, who has worked in the United Kingdom, France, and Germany. In 2017 she worked for Jean Paul Gaultier's fashion studio, designing interiors and fashion stage design in Paris.

In 2022 Tong moved to Los Angeles, to study for a postgraduate Fiction and Entertainment degree at Sci-Arc. For her thesis she created a surrealistic 3D animated film titled, "*Paper Dream: The Surreal Shores of Belonging*", which tells the story of a young girl's searches for adventure, and belonging.



In the future, Tong wants to combine digital visual design and spatial design to create special immersive experiences as she continues her interest in intertwining the themes of adventure, belonging, identity, and destiny. In all her works, as architect, artist, and digital designer, Tong strives to develop her own unique aesthetics in finding poetic solutions that soothe our souls while giving us the courage to continue exploration.



#### **Adrian Hoffman | Artist**

Adrian Hoffman was born and raised in Cambridge, MA, where they began their training as a martial artist at Davis Sq. Martial Arts. After receiving their Black Belt, they transitioned to dance in high school at the Cambridge School of Weston. They went on to graduate from The Ailey School/Fordham University with a BFA in Dance and a double minor in Philosophy and Math while also pioneering a study abroad exchange with Israel's Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company.

Adrian is the Artistic Facilitator and founder of Cantankerous Creatures, a Boston-based dance project seeking to strengthen the dance community with kindness and active audience engagement. They currently live in Los Angeles working as a dancer and choreographer. Previously they have been a company member of Whim W'Him, a guest dancer with Alvin Ailey and BODYTRAFFIC, danced in music videos for Blink-182 and Justin Bieber among others, freelanced on stage, TV and film and appeared as a featured dancer in Greta Gerwig's recent remake of Little Women.



#### **Mawusi Nennonene | Artist**

MawusiSarah is a dance artist based in Los Angeles. Her work is driven by the timeless relationship between movement, human nature, and the living earth.

She recently completed her MFA in Choreography at the University of Ghana, after receiving her BA in Dance Medicine & Management from Baldwin Wallace University. Throughout her career, she has performed with Cleveland Inner City Ballet, North Pointe Ballet, and Zbu Entertainment. She has also presented her work at the Cleveland Dance Festival, American Dance Festival's Student Showcase, Ballet Inc. The Series: IV Showcase, and The Ghana Dance Festival. She is extremely thankful for this opportunity and excited to participate in this collaborative experience.



### **Alejandro Perez | Artist**

Alejandro Perez is a first generation Mexican-American from Los Angeles. Alejandro received a full scholarship to be a part of the Alonzo King LINES Ballet Training program in 2016. After his first year at Lines he was announced the full scholarship recipient for the 85th Gala Anniversary at the Jacobs Pillow 2017 Ballet Summer Program. In recent years Alejandro has performed for several companies as well as freelancing in concert and commercial work getting to work

with and meet other talented artists.



### **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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