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Heidi Duckler Dance

presents

Herald In, Examine Throughout

LOS ANGELES (February 29, 2024) – Heidi Duckler Dance (HDD), the premier site-specific dance company in Los Angeles, is delighted to announce its upcoming interactive performance against the stunning backdrop of the Herald Examiner Building and inside the Downtown LA Proper Hotel on Saturday, May 18, 2024.

Titled "Herald In, Examine Throughout," this transformative experience will unfold along DTLA's Broadway Street. With an original score by Jessie Cox and Heidi Duckler's innovative choreography, these collaborative performances will traverse diverse narratives and foster connections among the vibrant communities that coexist downtown. Presented by Heidi Duckler Dance, this transdisciplinary performance will engage 200 attendees in a fusion of dance, music, and multimedia enveloping the iconic Herald Examiner Building on May 18, 2024. Collaborating with Keith Thompson of Arizona State

University's School of Music, Dance, and Theatre, this project seeks to illuminate the socioeconomic disparities in Downtown Los Angeles while chronicling the city's ongoing evolution.

From witnessing elegant roller-skating dancers adorned in exquisite ball gowns, and intricate cut-out installations by the talented visual artist, Jazmín Urrea, to experiencing live music featuring indigenous instruments, unique drum beats, and old school boomboxes, attendees will be treated to breathtaking multimedia performances.

The Herald Examiner Building, a historic landmark erected in 1913, serves as a poignant symbol of Downtown Los Angeles' rich history, encompassing its rise, fall, and ongoing redevelopment. Drawing inspiration from this storied past, "Herald In, Examine Throughout" aims to spark civic engagement across generations by reinvigorating tales of Downtown Los Angeles in captivating and thought-provoking ways, while also celebrating the city's thriving artistic community.

About the DTLA Proper Hotel

With city lights and vintage brick as backdrop, Proper re-imagines and updates a landmark in the heart of South Park District into a 147-room destination hotel. Here, the creative vision of Kelly Wearstler seamlessly blends past and present with compelling design, vintage influence and local art.

This program is supported, in part, by the Downtown Los Angeles Proper Hotel, the National Endowment for the Arts, New Music USA, The Aaron Copland Fund for Music, and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors through the Department of Arts and Culture.

Special thanks to Heather's Angels B&B, and Hal Bastian.



The Aaron Copland Fund for Music 



Details for Calendar Listings

What: *Herald In, Examine Throughout*

Who: Heidi Duckler Dance

When: Saturday, May 18, 2024 from 6:00 pm-9:00 pm

Where: Broadway Street & Downtown LA Proper Hotel

Cost: \$80

Tickets: <https://heididuckler.org/event/herald-in-examine-throughout/>

go places | Creating Site-specific Work Since 1985.

Heidi Duckler Dance is rooted in Freedom, Community and Inclusivity.

About Heidi Duckler Dance:

Initially founded in 1985, Heidi Duckler Dance 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. For 38 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.



Jessie Cox | Composer

Described by VAN Magazine as “a multifaceted Black Swiss composer, performer, and scholar,” Jessie Cox makes music about the universe and our future in it. Through avant-garde classical, experimental jazz, and sound art, he has devised his own strand of musical science fiction, one that asks where we go next. Cox’s music goes forward. When he describes it, he compares it to time travel and space exploration, likening the role of a composer to that of a rocket ship traversing undiscovered galaxies.

A dedicated collaborator Cox has worked as a composer and drummer with ensembles

and musicians such as the Sun Ra Arkestra, LA Phil, Ensemble Modern, and the JACK Quartet; at Festivals such as the Lucerne Festival, MaerzMusik, and Opera Omaha. For his work as a composer, he has been recognized with a Fromm Foundation commission, and his commissions have been funded by the Ernst von Siemens Foundation, Pro Helvetia, New Music USA, and others.

Currently completing his doctorate at Columbia University, Cox is also an accomplished scholar writing about music and the world. He has published in and co-translated the book *Composing While Black*, published as a bilingual edition in German and English by Wolke Verlag in 2023. Further texts appear in *liquid blackness*, *Critical Studies in Improvisation*, *Positionen Texte zur Aktuellen Musik*, *Sound American*, the *American Music Review*, and others.



Jobel Medina | Choreographer

Jobel Medina (Filipino, b. 1990) is a Los Angeles based creative and performer. Born and raised in the Philippines, Jobel migrated to the U.S. at the age of twelve. He received his Bachelor of Fine Arts in dance at California State University, Long Beach and Masters of Fine Arts at California Institute of the Arts.

He has been a member of Ate9 Dance Company since 2017, where he works closely with Danielle Agami and performed works by Shahar Binyamini and Tom Weinberger. Early in 2020, he performed at the Walt Disney Concert Hall as an actor/dancer for Simon McBurney's "Weimar Nightfall: The Seven Deadly Sins." In 2018, Jobel was one of the six interpreters to perform Tino Sehgal's "Selling Out, (2002)" at the Hammer Museum in Los Angeles, CA. As a freelancer, he's worked with choreographers such as Christopher Bordenave of No1 Art House, Kate Wallich and The YC, Ania Catherine & Dehja Ti, Rebecca Lemme, Keith Johnson, Andrew Winghart, Whyteberg, and has appeared in multiple

music videos and entertainment performances.

Heidi Duckler Dance warmly welcomed Jobel Medina to the Artist-in-Residence program this year. Jobel has collaborated with HDD Founder, Heidi Duckler since 2022.



Keith Thompson | Choreographer

Keith A. Thompson is a multifaceted contemporary dance artist currently serving as Assistant Director of the Dance program and Associate Professor within the School for Music, Dance, and Theatre at Arizona State University, as well as their Center for Race and Democracy's inaugural faculty resident artist. He danced internationally for the Trisha Brown Company (1992-2001), including serving as her Rehearsal Assistant (1998-2001); has performed with Bebe Miller Company; and is frequent performer, choreographer, and rehearsal director with Liz Lerman.

As a teacher, he has taught master classes and workshops for Sasha Waltz & Dancers (Berlin), Tanzwerkstatt Europa Festival (Munich), the TsEKh Summer Dance School (Moscow), the International Dance Festival (Kyoto, Sapporo, Tokyo Japan), and the Korea Dance Festival (Seoul), as well as been on the faculty at the Florida Dance Festival, the American Dance Festival, served on the artistic panel for DTW's Fresh Tracks (New York), as an adjudicator for the American College Dance Festival Association, and more. Since 2006, he has served as Artistic Director of danceTactics performance group, where his choreography has

been featured in New York at Dance Theater Workshop's Guest Artist Series, Dixon Place, Dance New Amsterdam, and the Dance Now Festival, as well as Harvard University, the University of Maryland College Park, the Dance Boom Festival (PA), the Jersey Moves Festival (NJ), the Aging in America Conference (CA), the Montpelier International Dance Festival (France), the Edinburgh Festival (UK), and Theater X (Japan).

Keith received his MFA Research Fellowship in Dance from Bennington College (Vermont) in 2003.



Jazmín Urrea | Visual Artist

Born and raised in Compton and Watts, Jazmín Urrea (b. 1990) received her MFA in Photography and Media from the California Institute of the Arts (2017) and a BFA in Photography from CSU Long Beach (2014).

Her works have recently been exhibited at The Studio Museum in Harlem and The J. Paul Getty Museum. Urrea lives and works in South Central Los Angeles. In her practice, Urrea satirizes the gendered symbols and totems prevalent in Latino communities. She incorporates a broad range of mediums and familiar tropes to question negative stereotypes that are still predominant.

She uses humor, and the inherent absurdity, as a disruptor to critique perceptions, and preconceived notions, about people in low-income neighborhoods. These themes are portrayed through, but not limited to, autobiographical events, junk food, drawings, performance, self-portraiture, video, sculpture, and installations.



Tomoko Ozawa | Pianist

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 began studying classical piano in Tokyo at the age of six, and spent three years in England during her teens, where she studied with Belinda Mikhail and Vanessa Latache, the Head of Keyboard at the Royal College of Music. While she actively participated in various music festivals there, and won several awards, she was also exposed to differences in race, culture and

political thought. This raised questions about her own cultural roots, and she started to question pursuing a career as a classical pianist.

Upon returning to Japan, she studied religions of Japan, philosophy and ethnomusicology alongside majoring in international law at the International Christian University in Tokyo. She picked up piano again during her senior year, this time improvising and composing through Jazz. She then relocated to Boston to further her studies in jazz composition, graduating from Berklee College of Music in 2014, and completing her master’s degree in Modern American Music from Longy School of Music in 2017.

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.



Marta Tiesenga | Composer

M.A. Tiesenga is an interdisciplinary artist whose practice delves into the intricate interplay of procedure and enaction within collaborative performance contexts, deftly shaping these dynamics through various idioms. Inspired by an affinity for the outdoors, Tiesenga draws analogies between these concepts and the art of cartography, illuminating the parallels between a map and a musical score. This exploration opens doors to musically navigate, inhabit, and realize theoretical terrains.

As a composer, visual artist, sound artist, multi-instrumentalist, and improviser, Tiesenga merges these creative identities by embracing the potential of expanded notation systems as an inquisition into new sonic possibilities. Their lifelong passion for collage, maps, puzzles, and asemic languages fuels an enchantment with encoding and decoding musical territories, allowing lexical approaches to transform into palpable expressions. Within their artistic vision, Tiesenga seeks to convey inner worlds where protocols and rules converge with intuition and mystique.



Sophie Akoury | Designer

Sophie Akoury is a multidisciplinary designer working within set design, furniture, animation, and architecture. Sophie received her Master's in Architecture from the Southern Institute of Architecture (SCI-Arc), where she was awarded the Gehry Prize in 2022 for her archival multimedia installation reimagining LA River's history. She holds a Bachelor's from l'Académie Libanaise des Beaux-Arts in Beirut.

She has co-taught at SCI-Arc and has been invited as a visiting critic to Pratt, Syracuse University, and USC.



William Roper | Musician

Roper is a multi-disciplinary artist residing in Los Angeles. His experience ranges from the symphony stage to free improvisation groups. He has toured Europe, North and South America, and Japan as a soloist and with ensembles. His musicianship is represented on over 60 recordings, including twelve recordings as leader and co-leader.

He has worked with such artists as Elton John, Leon Russell, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Thomas Mapfumo, Anthony Braxton, Yusef Lateef, Wadada Leo Smith, Bobby Bradford, Michiyo Yagi, Douglas Ewart, Johnny Mathis, Tim McGraw and many others. He creates works that merge music, stage performance, spoken word and the visual arts. These works, whether site-specific, for the concert hall, theater, gallery, digital platforms or recordings, explore histories of place, ethnic and cultural groups, and self-history.

They map his movement through these landscapes. In a sense, he is a cartographer. In 2020, William will have a work for string quartet premiered by the Koan Quartet, a program dedicated to his compositions presented by the Southland Ensemble and a work performed by the Chicago Modern Orchestra Project.



Kelsey Guy | Performer (Roller Skater)

Kelsey considers herself a roller skater dancer, movement coach, and a groovy dork on wheels!

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