

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: Sharice Bryant
MARKETING DIRECTOR
Sharice@heididuckler.org
(213) 373-0366

**Heidi Duckler Dance
Presents
*Dance in the Light of the Harvest Moon: 39th Anniversary Celebration***



Image by [handbuilt studio](#)

LOS ANGELES (September 21, 2024) – Heidi Duckler Dance (HDD) is thrilled to announce its 39th Anniversary Celebration, *Dance in the Light of the Harvest Moon*, to be held on the iconic Frank Gehry-designed campus of [Loyola Law School](#) on Saturday, September 21, 2024 at 5 pm.

The redesign of Loyola's campus in 1978 marked a pivotal moment in Gehry's career, showcasing his radical use of unconventional materials and his visionary approach to architecture. This project helped

catapult Gehry to national and international acclaim, as he transformed Loyola's downtown Los Angeles site into a neo-traditional campus that redefined the boundaries of architectural design.

Heidi Duckler's choreographic process, which integrates her ideas into physical landscapes to create signature universes, mirrors Gehry's architectural philosophy of crafting spaces that transcend their traditional roles, becoming catalysts for human interaction and emotion. Both Duckler and Gehry are pioneers in their respective fields, pushing the boundaries of how we experience art, architecture, and movement. Their work challenges us to reimagine our surroundings and our connections within them.

This evening not only celebrates 39 years of Heidi Duckler Dance but offers a glimpse into the future of our vibrant Los Angeles community of artists, designers, community advocates, and academics. The event will seamlessly blend artistry and community spirit, featuring a cocktail reception, performances, and an awards ceremony. Prominent LA community members will be honored for their outstanding contributions: Marla Bleavins, Deputy Executive Director & Chief Financial Officer at the Port of Los Angeles, will receive the Civic Engagement Award; Therese H. Maynard, Leonard Cohen Chair for Law and Business at LMU Loyola Law School, will be presented with the Education and Learning Award; and Alex M. Johnson, Vice President of Public Affairs at The California Wellness Foundation, will be recognized with the Human Impact Award.

Enhancing the evening's allure, three new works will be showcased, choreographed and directed by Madison Olandt, and Aleks Perez. These performances promise to engage the audience with their distinct artistic voices and creative approaches to movement. Additionally, guests will be treated to a dynamic original piece titled *School of Fish*, created by transdisciplinary choreographer Shoji Yamasaki, known for his innovative approach to storytelling through dance.

Details for Calendar Listings

Dance in the Light of the Harvest Moon | 39th Anniversary Celebration

Who: Heidi Duckler Dance

When: Saturday, September 21, 2024, 5 PM-10 PM

Where: Loyola Law School | 919 Albany St, Los Angeles, CA 90015

RSVP at: <https://heididuckler.org/event/39th-anniversary-celebration/>

Please RSVP by Friday, August 30, 2024

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

This celebration is supported in part by Red Bull, Polsinelli Law Firm, and Loyola Law School



*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



Therese H. Maynard | Education & Learning Award

Therese H. Maynard is the Leonard Cohen Chair for Law and Business at LMU Loyola Law School, Los Angeles, where she teaches Business Associations and Mergers & Acquisitions, as well as advanced courses focusing on venture capital financing and the role of in-house lawyers. Maynard is a nationally recognized business law scholar having written numerous law review articles and is also the author of two widely-adopted casebooks: *MERGERS & ACQUISITIONS: CASES, MATERIALS AND PROBLEMS* (now in its 5th Edition); and *BUSINESS PLANNING: FINANCING THE START-UP AND VENTURE CAPITAL FINANCING* (now in its 4th Edition with her co-author Shannon Trevino). Both casebooks are well known for providing a thoughtful approach to educating law students so that they are

well-prepared to practice corporate law. In addition, as Founder of Loyola's Transactional Lawyering Institute, Maynard has developed a new and innovative curriculum for educating Loyola's students so that they are ready "to hit the ground running" when they graduate and start practicing business law in a transactional setting.



Alex Johnson | Human Impact Award

Alex M. Johnson is Vice President of Public Affairs at The California Wellness Foundation where he brings nearly twenty years of successful cross-sector experience working with policymakers, nonprofit organizations, government agencies, and the philanthropic sector to solve problems and advance change. Johnson returned to Cal Wellness in January 2024 after serving as vice president at Bryson Gillette, a strategic communications and public affairs firm where he led efforts to support clients working to create change across multiple sectors, including education, government, philanthropy, and nonprofits. Before his time at Bryson Gillette, Johnson served as a senior leader at Cal Wellness for nearly five years in various grantmaking roles,

including as Chief of Staff and Program Director. Alex led efforts to address gun violence as a preventable public health issue, reimagine the youth justice system, and address issues ranging from health equity, environmental justice, and immigration.



Marla Bleavins | Civic Engagement Award

Marla Bleavins is a proud native of Los Angeles, having grown up in the greater Crenshaw area where she still resides. She was raised by two dedicated public servants –a retired educator and a retired Lieutenant with the Los Angeles Sheriff’s Department. She attended local schools, graduating from St. Bernard High School and from there she went on to earn her degree in Public Policy at Stanford University. Upon returning to Los Angeles after graduation, she soon continued her family’s proud legacy of public service by starting her 25-year career with the City of Los Angeles. She also earned a Master of Business Administration from the Wharton School.

Marla takes great pride in having “grown up in the City” professionally, having started her career as a management assistant in the Office of the City Administrative Officer and eventually taking on key roles in other departments such as Debt & Treasury Manager at LAX, Assistant General Manager at the Los Angeles Convention Center and most recently Deputy Executive Director & Chief Financial Officer at the Port of Los Angeles. She also served as Executive Officer, serving the second in command at the nation’s busiest container port.

In May, Marla returned to Los Angeles World Airports, the City agency that runs LAX, to serve as Chief Airports Administrative Officer where she will lead human resources, procurement, supplier diversity, risk management, and commercial development.

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.



Shoji Yamasaki | Choreographer

Shoji Yamasaki is a transdisciplinary choreographer, performer, director, writer, and filmmaker born and raised on unceded ancestral land of Gabrielino-Tongva, recently known as Los Angeles. His work encompasses a multitude of topics that combine mimicry, translation, and storytelling that dismantles one-sided perception and challenges the viewer’s social norms. Combining his experiences, he creates site-specific and immersive experiences that allows the audience to become storytellers themselves.

He completed his B.A. Degree in World Arts and Cultures (Dance Concentration) and a minor in Spanish from UCLA in 2011 and his M.F.A. Degree in Choreography from California Institute of the Arts in 2023. Throughout his career, he has worked with choreographers such as Dimitri Chamblas, Heidi Duckler, Keith Glassman, Carol McDowell, Matthew Rushing, and Rebecca Pappas. His works have been presented at locations such as the Jerry Moss Plaza at the Music Center, REDCAT (Roy Edna Disney/CalArts Theater), Odyssey Theater, Gibney Dance (New York), and Conservatorio de Danza México (Mexico).

Madison Olandt | Choreographer



A movement artist and creative director born and raised in Los Angeles, Madison Olandt is a collaborator at heart. With a Bachelor's Degree in World Arts and Cultures/Dance from UCLA, she has worked and choreographed within both concert and commercial dance worlds, including Diavolo Architecture in Motion, Jacob Jonas The Company, Dallas Black Dance Theater, Katy Perry, Daniel Ezralow, Rennie Harris, Michael Rooney, and Academy of Villains Contemporary.

Her collaborative work has been seen at the Ahmanson Music Center, The Kennedy Center, TEDXUCLA, Pauley Pavilion, Royce Hall, America's Got Talent and NBC's World of Dance Season 3. As of this moment, Madison is interested in storytelling through the abstraction of the human form.

Alejandro Perez | Choreographer



Alejandro is a first generation Mexican-American from Los Angeles, California. He was first introduced to dance at age of 12. He joined a street dance crew in which he used to compete and showcase internationally. Alejandro's passion continued to unfold as he enrolled at Hamilton Performing Arts High School to begin refining his techniques. He is a recipient of scholarships at UCLA, Jacob's Pillow Ballet Summer Programs 85th Anniversary GALA, & Alonzo King LINES Ballet Training Program. Alejandro completed a 3 week residency in the world renowned Orsolina28

in Moncalvo, Italy dancing under the direction of Mike Tyus. He has been a performer and a collaborator with Sidra Bell Dance NYC, ISHIDA Dance, Dawsondancesf, ZiRu Dance, Mike Tyus & Co. and several other companies throughout the United States. Alejandro has worked on the LINES Ballet Training Program, Summer Program in San Francisco, Youth American Grand Prix (YAGP) and the California summer school for the arts. Both his work and his dancing have been seen throughout the country.

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