



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ODC/DANCE'S 50+ ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS CONCLUDE WITH
The Velveteen Rabbit

*The annual holiday tradition delivers timeless message of
love, loyalty and acceptance*

November 26 - December 11, 2022
Blue Shield of California Theater at YBCA



Photo by Robbie Sweeney.

odc.dance.velveteenrabbit

SAN FRANCISCO, CA, October 24, 2022 – ODC will conclude its 50+ anniversary celebrations with ***The Velveteen Rabbit***, a cherished holiday tradition since 1986. Based on the story by Margery Williams, *The Velveteen Rabbit* features choreography by **KT Nelson**, narration by actor **Geoff Hoyle**, costumes and sets by **Brian Wildsmith**, music by Benjamin Britten and larger-than-life storybook characters portrayed by the world-class dancers of ODC/Dance. *The Velveteen Rabbit* runs November 26 to December 11 with ten matinee performances: Thursdays and Fridays at 11 a.m. and Saturdays and Sundays at 3 p.m. Tickets, \$15 to \$100, are now on sale at **odc.dance/velveteenrabbit**.

The Velveteen Rabbit chronicles the story of a stuffed rabbit which comes to life through the love of its owner, a young boy. The book, reissued this year in its centenary edition, has endured because of its

timeless message of love, loyalty and acceptance, and ODC/Dance's adaptation, which has toured to 20 states, continues to enthrall children and grown-ups alike.

"The wisdom of *The Velveteen Rabbit* is just as potent today as when it was written 100 years ago," said Nelson. "Margery Williams is able to convey insight about what's important in life with wit and joy and tenderness. Through the Rabbit, she shows that our lovability is not contingent on our physical appearance or age, and that real love comes with loyalty over time."

Nelson directs this year's *Velveteen Rabbit* with support from **Brandon "Private" Freeman**, assistant to the artistic directors, and **Dexandro Montalvo** as rehearsal director.

The cast includes **Rachel Furst** and guest artist **Sarah Chou** as the Rabbit; **Jeremy Bannon-Neches** and **Christian Squires** as the Boy; **Ryan Rouland Smith** as the Skin Horse; Freeman as the Crocodile; Chou and **Miche Wong** as the Fairy and Nana; and **ArVejon Jones** and **Ismael Acosta** as "Nana Bottom," the hard-working, unseen lower half of the ten-foot-tall character of the Nana. Rounding out the cast are **Jaime Garcia Castilla**, **Cora Cliburn**, **Jenna Marie Graves**, **Allie Papazian** and **Simon Schuh** as the adult chorus.

Each year ODC/Dance casts young dancers from ODC School to perform in *The Velveteen Rabbit*, and this year 17 young dancers will take part.

Following the Saturday and Sunday performances – November 26 and 27, December 3, 4, 10 and 11 – ODC will offer a **Milk & Cookies Passport** including a photo opportunity with the Rabbit and other characters.

As part of its annual **Buddies for Bunnies** program, ODC is pleased to donate up to 1400 tickets to low-income third-grade students through 12 participating public schools. In addition to donating tickets, ODC provides the students transportation to and from the theater, and their teachers receive a curriculum guide with video designed for classroom use.

ODC is also delighted to offer **The Velveteen Rabbit Digital Experience**. Available between November 1 and January 1, this limited-time streaming program includes a feature film version of *The Velveteen Rabbit* alongside interactive content: six episodes of *The Family Follow Along Series*, three episodes of *Fun House* and the documentary *Backstage Pass: The Velveteen Rabbit*. Whether families wish to relive the magic and unpack the wisdom of the Rabbit or build up to the main event, this new streaming package is the perfect companion – available at odc.dance/connect.

ABOUT ODC

Founded in 1971 by Artistic Director Brenda Way, ODC is a groundbreaking contemporary arts institution: a world-class dance company (ODC/Dance), a theater with year-round presenting and mentorship programs (ODC Theater), a training school for dancers and movers of all levels (ODC School), and a fee-free, educational Healthy Dancers' Clinic. Known nationally for its entrepreneurial savvy and artistic innovation, ODC is unique for its holistic vision, now including a robust digital platform. With its home in San Francisco's Mission District, ODC makes a dynamic contribution to the Bay Area's vibrant dance and arts ecosystem, cultivating artists, inspiring audiences, engaging the community, and fostering diversity and inclusion through dance performance, training and mentorship.

FACT SHEET

WHAT:

ODC/Dance presents *The Velveteen Rabbit*, an annual holiday tradition since 1986. *The Velveteen Rabbit* is a two-act fantasy told through music, dance and narrative. It chronicles the story of a stuffed rabbit which comes to life through the love of its owner, a young boy. Suitable for ages 3 and up.

Run Time: 85 minutes including one intermission

WHEN:

November 26 - December 11, 2022

Thursdays and Fridays at **11 a.m.**

Saturdays and Sundays at **3 p.m.**

Nov. 26 at 3 p.m.

Nov. 27 at 3 p.m.

Dec. 1 at 11 a.m.

Dec. 2 at 11 a.m.

Dec. 3 at 3 p.m.

Dec. 4 at 3 p.m.

Dec. 8 at 11 a.m.

Dec. 9 at 11 a.m.

Dec. 10 at 3 p.m.

Dec. 11 at 3 p.m.

WHERE:

Blue Shield of California Theater at YBCA

700 Howard Street

San Francisco, CA 94103

TICKETS:

\$15 - \$100

To purchase tickets online visit **odc.dance/velveteenrabbit** or call the box office at **415-863-9834**.

On weekday performances, groups of ten or more are eligible for a discounted group rate. For more information, please contact the ODC Box Office at boxoffice@odc.dance.

*For the safety of everyone, ODC requires proof of full COVID-19 vaccination. Learn more at **odc.dance/reopening**.*

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

www.odc.dance

For all press inquiries please contact John Hill at johnhillpr@gmail.com.