

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Contact: Lauren Hanzel, 510 414 8547

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OAKLAND BALLET COMPANY ANNOUNCES *FORWARDS!* A program featuring four Oakland Premieres

Oakland Ballet's spring season "***Forwards!***" features two world premieres plus two Oakland premieres and takes place at Laney College, 900 Fallon Street, Oakland, CA 94607 on May 19, 20 and 21, 2011.

The program commences with ". . . ." " a tongue-in-cheek world premiere choreographed by 2011 Isadora Duncan Awardee, Sonya Delwaide, and is danced to Mozart compositions written for the Glass Harmonica.

Amy Seiwert, a recent Isadora Duncan Award nominee, has completed her 2009 creation "***Response to Change***" by adding the fifth movement of "***The Life of Birds***" composed by Mason Bates. The shorter version of this work was last seen in the West Wave Festival in 2009.

Graham Lustig's new duet, "***Words Within Words***", is inspired by Oakland poet Robert Duncan's "Often I am permitted to return to a meadow" and is danced to ***Etude No. 5*** and ***Escape***, both piano compositions for four hands, by Philip Glass.

Closing the program is Mr. Lustig's ***VISTA***, a full-company work, performed to the sultry jazz saxophone melodies of John Lurie and the Lounge Lizards.

Both "***Response to Change***" and "***Words Within Words***" have costume designs by OBC company dancer Jamielyn Duggan and the lighting designs for all four ballets have been created by Drama-Logue and Isadora Duncan Awardee David Elliott.

To broaden the scope of this creative venture, Mr. Lustig has invited four local visual artists to the dance studios at Mills College where they will watch the Oakland Ballet Company dancers and choreographers during the rehearsal process. As the non-verbal dialogue unfolds, each artist, in their individual medium, will capture their observations, responses, commentaries and inspirations. The artists are Karlya Benjamin, photographer and former member of Dance Theatre of Harlem, Stephen Hayes, printmaker, Carolyn Simon, jeweler, and Marsha Balian, mixed media. A selection of their freshly dance-inspired art works will be on display May 19 -21st in the Laney Theatre Foyer.

Oakland Unified Schools Partnership – Building on the collaboration with the Oakland Unified School District, at 11am on Friday May 20th a student matinee is being offered to local middle-school students. Oakland Ballet is deeply committed to offering free performances to the community and broadening access to the arts.

Ms Delwaide's new work has been kindly underwritten by the East Bay Community Foundation. The presentation Amy Seiwert's "***Response to Change***" has been underwritten with the generous support of a local private patron.

Buy your tickets now! "Forwards!" tickets are on sale now starting at \$15.00

4 performances:

Thursday, May 19 at 8 pm

Friday, May 20 at 8 pm – Opening Night*

Saturday, May 21 at 3pm

Saturday, May 21 at 8 pm

Purchase tickets via: www.brownpapertickets.com

Orchestra, \$38.00

Orchestra, Senior 62+, \$29.00

Orchestra, Student ages 5-17, \$29.00

Balcony, \$28.00

Balcony, Senior 62+, \$21.00

Balcony, Student ages 5-17, \$21.00

Balcony, College Student, \$15.00**

*Friends of the Oakland Ballet Reception May 20 Only!

Opening Night optional on-stage reception for Friends of the Oakland Ballet. Separate ticket required. OBC patrons will meet Artistic Director Graham Lustig, and the choreographers, artists, and dancers for purchase of the post-performance reception with Opening Night ticket.

Price includes reserved performance seating and reception:

Orchestra + Reception, \$60.00

Orchestra + Reception, Seniors 62+, \$50.00

Orchestra + Reception, Students 5-17, \$50.00

** Limited number of College Student tickets available at box office only, first come/first serve basis. College ID required.

Please visit our website at www.oaklandballet.org for more information

Support Oakland Ballet Company – Partnerships and donations make it possible for Oakland Ballet Company to present ballet that is exciting, vibrant and accessible to all. Ticket sales do not cover all production expenses and outreach programs. Please donate today: visit OaklandBallet.org or send your donation to Oakland Ballet Company, 416 26th Street, Oakland, Ca. 94612. 501c3 organization - Federal Tax ID# 94-3395450.

Corporate Partners - Bank of America Foundation, Chevron, Clorox Company Foundation, San Francisco Foundation, A&B Foundation, East Bay Community Foundation and Dreyers Grand Ice Cream are proud partners with the Oakland Ballet Company for the 2010-11 Season.

Mr. Lustig will be available for in-person interviews commencing April 25th 2011 and is available for telephone interviews at any time prior.

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