

PRESENTS



## **ODC/Dance** **The Velveteen Rabbit**

A Children's Stage Family Series Event  
Sunday, November 16, 2008 • 3 pm  
Jackson Hall, Mondavi Center, UC Davis

There will be one intermission.

*The artists and your fellow audience members appreciate silence during the performance. Please be sure that you have switched off cellular phones, watch alarms, and pager signals. Videotaping, photographing, and audio recording are strictly forbidden. Violators are subject to removal.*

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### **The Velveteen Rabbit** **(In Memory of Gio)**

#### **PROGRAM**

##### **ACT I**

(50 minutes)

Scene I	Winter
Scene II	Christmas Morning
Scene III	Nursery
Scene IV	Slumber
Scene V	Spring
Scene VI	The Real Rabbits

##### *Intermission*

##### **ACT II**

(25 minutes)

Scene I	Summer
Scene II	Sickness
Scene III	Back of the Garden
Scene IV	Night Forest
Scene V	Seasons Passing

Use of the works by Benjamin Britten was made possible by Boosey and Hawkes, Inc., publisher and copyright owner: *Variations on a Theme of Frank Bridge*, *Canadian Carnival*, *Matinees Musicals*, "Four Sea Interludes" from Peter Grimes, *Scottish Ballad*, *Prince of the Pagodas*, and *Simple Symphony*. "Playful Pizzicato" from *Simple Symphony* performed by arrangement with Oxford University Press, Inc., New York.

**CAST AND CREW**

**The Velveteen Rabbit**  
Elizabeth Farotte

**The Boy**  
Daniel Santos

**Nana**  
Anne Zivolich

**Nana Bottom**  
Steven Dillon/Zack Sharrins

**Skin Horse**  
Jeremy Smith

**Fairy**  
Anne Zivolich

**Real Rabbit/Adult Chorus**

Corey Brady  
Robert Dekkers  
Yayoi Kambara  
Aaron Perlstein  
Jeremy Smith  
Vanessa Thiessen  
Chin-chin Hsu

**Children's Cast**  
Dakota Cosgrove  
Jane Bellamy  
Kasey Hsu  
Sally Li  
Christina Messick  
Kinsey Nelson  
Janamarie Perroud  
Grace Shelledy  
Noriko Smallwood  
Irem Sogutlugil

Choreographer and Director: KT Nelson

ODC Artistic Director: Brenda Way  
ODC Co-Artistic Director: KT Nelson

Based on the story by Margery Williams

Music: Benjamin Britten  
Set & Costume Design: Brian Wildsmith  
Recorded Narration: Geoff Hoyle  
Song Composition: Bob Franke and Gina Leishman  
Singer: Rinde Eckert  
Overture Arrangement: Alexis Alrich  
Lighting Design & Set Realization: David K. H. Elliott  
Design Consultant: Susan Tuohy  
Additional Design & Construction: Eric Gantos  
Costume Realization: Jennifer Craig of Ballet West and Nancy Endy  
Initial Design Concepts: David K. H. Elliott and Sandra Woodall  
Production Stage Manager: Kathy Rose  
Lighting Supervisor: David Robertson  
Wardrobe Supervisor: Coeli Polansky  
Assistant Stage Manager: Brent LaChapelle

**PROGRAM NOTES**

As mothers, Brenda Way and I have always believed in the importance of shared artistic experience for the family and the power of art as a moral force. *The Velveteen Rabbit* is a story that speaks across generations. I was drawn to it because of its central metaphor about becoming real. In poetic and touching form, Margery Williams suggests that age and experience give us the opportunity to achieve greater humanity, that the power of love can mend us, and that loyalty and perseverance can bring meaning to our lives. For me, the gift of art to our youth is a gift of imagination. Like love, imagination is a force that can both move the world and feed the spirit.

—KT Nelson, Choreographer

**PROFILES**

**Brenda Way** (artistic director) received her early training at the School of American Ballet and Ballet Arts in New York City. She is the founder and artistic director of ODC/Dance and creator of the ODC Theater and ODC Dance Commons, a community performance venue and new training facility in San Francisco's Mission District. Way launched ODC and an inter-arts department at Oberlin College and Conservatory of Music in the late 1960s before relocating to the Bay Area in 1976. She has choreographed 76 pieces over the last 35 years. Among her many commissions are *On a Train Heading South* (2005), CSU Monterey Bay; *Remnants of Song* (2002), Stanford Lively Arts; *Scissors Paper Stone* (1994), Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre; *Western Women* (1993), Cal Performances, Rutgers University, and Jacob's Pillow; *Ghosts of an Old Ceremony* (1991), Walker Art Center and the Minnesota Orchestra; *Krazy Kat* (1990), San Francisco Ballet; *This Point in Time* (1987), Oakland Ballet; *Tamina* (1986), San Francisco Performances; and *Invisible Cities* (1985), Stanford Lively Arts and the Robotics Research Laboratory. Way is a national spokesperson for dance, has published widely, and has received numerous awards and 30 years of support from the National Endowment for the Arts. She is a 2000 recipient of the John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship. Way holds a Ph.D in aesthetics and is the mother of four children.

**KT Nelson** (co-artistic director) joined ODC in 1976 while attending Oberlin College. She danced with the company from 1976 to 1997. Since 1976, Nelson has choreographed more than 55 works as well as composing and commissioning numerous scores. In 1986, she choreographed and directed ODC's first full-length family production, *The Velveteen Rabbit*, which has since been performed annually in the Bay Area as well as toured nationwide. She has won the Isadora Duncan Award (San Francisco's highest dance honor) three times, in 1987 for Outstanding Performance, 1996 for Outstanding Choreography, and 2001 for Sustained Achievement. She has received 10 Isadora Duncan nominations in all categories, including a triple nomination for her 1993 work *River*. Nelson's collaborators have included Bobby McFerrin, Geoff Hoyle, Gina Leishman, Rinde Eckert, Marcelo Zarvos, Zap Mama, and Linda Bouchard. She founded ODC's youth company, the ODC Dance Jam, and presently co-directs the Jam (ages 12–17) with ODC School director Kimi Okada. As director of ODC's Educational Outreach Program, Nelson has done extensive projects working with Kohler Arts Center, the University of Florida at Gainesville, and Everett Middle School. She sits on the Board of Directors for ODC and on the Community Arts Distribution Panel for the Zellerbach Family Foundation.

**Kimi Okada** (associate choreographer) is a founding member of ODC, for which she has created 22 works. Her work includes commissions and collaborations with Geoff Hoyle, Bill Irwin, Julie Taymor, Robin Williams, Edward Barnes, and Keith Terry. She has choreographed productions for the Children's Theater Company in Minneapolis, Theatre for a New Audience in New York, the American Music Theater Festival, Santa Fe Opera, Los Angeles Music Center Opera, Los Angeles Theatre Center, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Portland Center for the Performing Arts, Pickle Family Circus, and San Francisco Mime Troupe. She was nominated for a Tony Award for the Broadway production *Largely New York*, which she co-choreographed with Bill Irwin. Okada co-directs the youth company, the ODC Dance Jam, and is the director of the ODC School.

**Daniel Santos** (dancer) was born in Manila and grew up in San Jose. He began studying dance at the age of 18 under the tutelage of Dennis Marshall. Santos attended the San Francisco Ballet School and later studied at the University of Oklahoma where he was a featured dancer in productions of *Sleeping Beauty*, *Serenade*, *Spectre de la Rose*, and *Carmina Burana*. Santos joined ODC in 2002.

**Yayoi Kambara** (dancer) was born in Tokyo and raised in the Bay Area and Surrey, England. She earned a BA in East Asian studies from Lawrence University and a BFA in dance performance from the University of Minnesota–Twin Cities. In the Bay Area, she has danced with STEAMROLLER Dance Company, Flyaway Productions, Sara Shelton Mann/Contraband, and Scott Wells. Kambara joined ODC in 2003.

**Anne Zivolich** (dancer) was born in Los Angeles and began her training in ballet, jazz, and tap at age seven. Zivolich studied on scholarship at Ballet Met, the Joffrey Ballet, and Pacific Northwest Ballet. She graduated from the Juilliard School with a BFA in dance under the direction of Benjamin Harkarvy. Zivolich danced with Hubbard Street 2 in Chicago under the direction of Julie Nakagawa-Bottcher and was on faculty at the Lou Conte Dance Studio. In 2005, she was an Isadora Duncan Dance Award finalist in Best Individual Performance for her ODC's Dance Downtown Program 1 at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. Zivolich has also performed on television for the Academy Awards show and in the movie *Toys*. Zivolich joined ODC in 2003.

**Corey Brady** (dancer) is a native of Houston and a graduate of Houston's High School for the Performing and Visual Arts. He received additional training at the Houston Ballet Academy, American Dance Festival, Martha Graham School of Contemporary Dance, and the University of Oklahoma, where he earned a BFA degree. He has performed in Paraguay and Mexico and was a guest artist with Prism Dance Theatre in Seattle in 2003. Since moving to San Francisco, Brady has worked with Joe Landini for the 2005 National Queer Arts Festival, as well as his 2005 summer dance festival at counter-PULSE. Brady joined ODC in 2003.

**Quilet Rarang** (dancer) began her ballet training in the Philippines at the age of 11 and was later accepted as a dance scholar at the Philippine High School for the Arts. She performed with Makiling Ballet, Lab Project, Dance Forum, and Ballet Philippines. Since arriving in the United States, she has worked with Jigsaw Dance Collective, Redlands Ballet, ECNAD, Le Studio's Dance Corps in

Pasadena, and South California Dance Theatre. Rarang has also worked with TRIP Dance Theatre in Los Angeles and Parsons Dance Company in New York. Rarang joined ODC in 2005. She is presently on leave recovering from an injury.

**Elizabeth Farotte** (dancer) was raised in Gilroy. She has danced with Ballet Met and toured internationally performing works by Bay Area choreographers. A recipient of the Donald McKayle Medal Scholarship, she received her BA in dance from UC Irvine and was a member of McKayle's dance ensemble. While on exchange at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse de Paris, Farotte performed principal roles in works by Forsythe and Balanchine. She trained at the San Jose Cleveland Ballet and spent summers at the Boston Ballet and on scholarship at the Royal Academy of Dance, New York and Cleveland Ballet. Farotte joined ODC in 2005.

**Jeremy Smith** (dancer) has been dancing since the age of nine. After growing up in Florida, he moved to New York to join the Parsons Dance Company. For three years, he danced lead roles in many of Parsons' classic works, including *Nascimento* and *The Envelope*. He also received critical praise for his performances of Parsons' acclaimed solo *Caught*. Smith has danced with Ben Munisteri Dance Projects and Lydia Johnson Dance as a guest artist and freelance dancer. He's a graduate of New World School of the Arts High School and Florida State University. Smith joined ODC in 2007.

**Aaron Perlstein** (apprentice), born and raised in San Francisco, began his dance training at Humboldt State University with Heather Sorter and Jandy Bergman. His training includes ODC/Dance, Alonzo King's LINES Contemporary Ballet, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company, and Jacob's Pillow. Perlstein's professional credits include Astrum Dance Theater, North Coast Dance's *Nutcracker*, Humboldt Light Opera Company, Michigan Opera Theater, Romeo Civic Ballet, and Eisenhower Dance Ensemble. Perlstein joined ODC as an apprentice in 2006.

**Robert Dekkers** (dancer) received his professional training from the Gwinnett Ballet Theatre. During the summers he studied with Boston Ballet, Pacific Northwest Ballet, and Atlanta Ballet. Dekkers has performed in Scotland at the Edinburgh Festival, at the Tanzsommer Festival in Vienna, and with the Atlanta Ballet in London. From 2002-2008, he danced with Ballet Arizona, where he performed the principal role in August Bournonville's *Flower Festival in Genzano*. This is Dekkers' first season with ODC.

**Vanessa Thiessen** (dancer) is from Portland, Oregon. Thiessen trained at the School of Oregon Ballet Theatre under the direction of Haydee Gutierrez. In 1995, she joined the company of Oregon Ballet Theatre. In 2003, she joined the company of Oregon Ballet Theatre. In 2003, she joined the company of Oregon Ballet Theatre and has performed lead roles in many of Michael Smuin's ballets, including *Stabat Mater*, *Frankie & Johnny*, *Zorro!*, *Fly Me to the Moon*, and *Symphony of Psalms*. Vanessa has danced with Amy Seiwert's company, im-ij-re, since 2004. This is Thiessen's first season with ODC.

**Chin-Chin Hsu** (dancer) was born and raised in Kaohsiung, Taiwan. Hsu has trained in ballet, modern, Chinese martial arts, Chinese ballet, Tai-chi, jazz, improvisation, and dance composition. She received her BFA with highest honors from New World School of the Arts under the direction of Daniel Lewis and received full scholarship awards to attend professional educational workshops such as Jacob's Pillow, Cloud Gate Dance Theatre—Young Dancers, and Asian Young Choreographer Project. This is Hsu's first season with ODC.

**ABOUT ODC/DANCE**

ODC was formed at Oberlin College in Ohio by Brenda Way. The group of 16 dancers, musicians, artists, choreographers, and composers later traveled west in a big yellow school bus, relocating to San Francisco in 1976. Since then, "ODC has become one of the few thriving modern dance companies anywhere" (*S.F. Examiner*). In its 36-year history, ODC has built a dance school, a children's company, an active touring schedule, and a campus of its own, the ODC Dance Commons, and the ODC Theater, where the company teaches and rehearses and presents other performers from all over the world.

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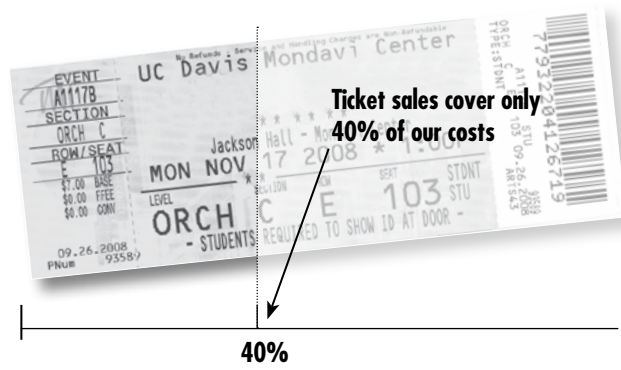
**ODC/Dance Staff**

Artistic Director: Brenda Way  
Co-Artistic Director: KT Nelson  
Associate Choreographer: Kimi Okada  
Managing Director: Lori Laqua

Finance Manager: Marti Johnston  
Booking Director: Cathy Pruzan  
Marketing Director: Nancy Bertossa  
Development Associate: Jessica Goldman  
Outreach Coordinator: Annie Jupiter-Jones  
Marketing Associate: Catherine Clambaneva  
Marketing Assistant: Jenna Glass  
Finance Assistant: Carlos Lopez  
Events Coordinator: Susann McMahon  
Administrative Assistant: Cori Crowley  
Company Photographer: Rj Muna



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