

Media Contact:  
Mary Carbonara  
[marycarbonara@gmail.com](mailto:marycarbonara@gmail.com) or 415-845-9994

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DANCE  
MISSION  
THEATER**  
3316 24<sup>th</sup> Street-SF



*Pictured: Dance Brigade; Photo by Robbie Sweeny*

**DANCE MISSION THEATER**

Presents

## ***¡Adelante!***

**20th Anniversary Celebration of the Past and Future of Dance Mission Theater  
One Night Only!**

Featuring performances by Dance Brigade, Grrrl Brigade,  
Arenas Dance Company, Duniya Dance and Drum, Micaya,  
Allan Frias, Alayo Dance Company, La Mezcla, and more.

**November 8 at 7:30pm**

**at the San Francisco War Memorial and Performing Arts Center Herbst Theater**

For tickets and information: <https://dancemissiontheater.org/>

**Tickets: \$10-\$50. On sale September 15.**

SAN FRANCISCO, CA - September 5, 2019 - **Dance Mission Theater announces *iAdelante!*, the 20th Anniversary Celebration of Dance Mission Theater (DMT)**, featuring artists who have made DMT an incubator for innovative performance art, a gathering place for diverse communities, a vibrant school for youth and adults and a center for social justice and equity. The show will feature performances by **Dance Brigade, Grrrl Brigade, Arenas Dance Company, Duniya Dance and Drum, Micaya, Allan Frias, Alayo Dance Company and more to be announced.** *iAdelante!* -- which means *onward* -- is a celebration of Dance Mission Theater's community of artists, teachers, students, activities, friends and family with **one performance only at 7:30pm on November 8, 2019 at the San Francisco War Memorial and Performing Arts Center Herbst Theater. Tickets are \$10-\$50 and go on sale September 15 at <https://dancemissiontheater.org/>.**

More than 1,500 people step through Dance Mission's doors each week. Some come to be electrified by an eye-opening, socially engaging performance; others use the space to choreograph, rehearse, or present new works; others are warmly welcomed to take their very first dance class or their thousandth class - whether they are 7 years old or 70 years old.

"With *iAdelante!* we want to celebrate those that have made DMT such an important base for art and community for two decades," explains Dance Mission Theater's Program Director Stella Adelman. "By having Dance Mission's 20th anniversary season downtown, across from City Hall and in the same building as the San Francisco Arts Commission and Grants for the Arts, we are making a statement that art and culture are vital to the City and we will continue on, even in the face of adversity," adds Artistic Director and Dance Mission Founder Krissy Keefer.

In addition, the evening will include performances by DMT's home companies, Dance Brigade and Dance Brigade's daughter company, Grrrl Brigade, which serves 90 young women and girls with an emphasis on self-empowerment. "This is just a sliver of the students, teachers, and artists in residence that have made DMT a place for social/political activism and multi-cultural collaborations, which we are fighting to keep San Francisco's hallmark," adds Keefer. "We're celebrating the past and looking to the future."

Soon the number of people dancing through the doors of DMT will increase: With the investment of three non-profit organizations - Dance Mission Theater, Mission Neighborhood Center and Mission Economic Development Agency (MEDA) -- DMT is planning to move from its current location at 24th and Mission Streets to its new "forever home" at 18th and Mission Streets. Groundbreaking is slated for a 2020 date to be announced.

The new building will provide

- A fully accessible venue for DMT's dynamic performances and dance classes for youth and adults, exploring contemporary social issues and cultural identities;
- Approximately 60 new below market housing units, offering affordable solutions for families at risk of displacement; and
- Affordable childcare and early-childhood education center for neighborhood residents.

Keefer adds, "I am excited that the collaborative partnerships we are creating at our new site will tackle some of the most pivotal needs of our community - from affordable housing to childcare to preserving the Mission as a thriving, diverse cultural district."

### **ABOUT DANCE MISSION THEATER**

Dance Mission connects and empowers diverse Bay Area communities and artists through dance and dance theater, including the production of new works, instruction and performance. Dance Mission is an

artist-driven, feminist organization dedicated to building community, exploring issues of social justice and cultural identity, promoting inclusivity and fairness and creating a more peaceful world through collective action inspired by dance.

In 1975 Dance Brigade Artistic Director Krissy Keefer co-founded the Wallflower Order, the nation's first feminist dance company. Wallflower Order toured the nation for almost a decade and staged many of Keefer's original pieces before large, enthusiastic and predominantly feminist audiences. Keefer developed a new kind of modern dance theater that was stylistically rooted in the martial arts, female athleticism and social justice. Keefer co-founded Dance Brigade in 1984 as a feminist dance company to carry forward her activist feminist vision. Her original works continue to explore social issues such as war, poverty, breast cancer, women's history and spirituality from a feminist perspective. This dynamic multi-racial troupe of women proves that socially relevant dance can be technically brilliant, as well as exuberant with down-home hilarious fun. Dance Brigade has created over 10 full-length concerts of contemporary dance theater including *Pandora's Box*, *Ballet of the Banshees*, *Cinderella*, *Queen of Sheba*, *CaveWomen*, *Spell*, *The Revolutionary Nutcracker Sweetie*, *The Great Liberation Upon Hearing* and *Hemorrhage*. For these productions, they received numerous grants and awards.

In 1998, Dance Brigade began to operate Dance Mission Theater in San Francisco at 24th and Mission Streets, providing the City with significant presenting, affordable theater and rehearsal space rental, artist development and adult/youth dance instruction programs. Dance Mission Theater is an 8,400-square-foot dance center, with three dance studios and a 140-seat black box theater with professional lighting and sound capabilities. Major artistic accomplishments include: creation and production of 15 evening-length works of Keefer's original feminist dance/theater for sold-out crowds; presentation of the pioneering CubaCaribe Music and Dance Festival, SkyDancers Festival, ManiFestival and Women on the Drum Festival; management of a welcoming, affordable, artist-led professional theater that presents more than 110 choreographers each year and helps emerging artists launch their professional careers through programs such as the bi-annual Choreographers Showcase and the biennial D.I.R.T. (Dance in Revolt-ing Times) Festival; and the founding of Grrrl Brigade, an intensive dance/leadership development program for hundreds of local girls age 9 to 18. Dance Brigade also operates the Dos Rios Artist Retreat Center in Mendocino County, which offers space for performance, dance, drum, and yoga intensives, and artist residencies, serving both the Bay Area and the local rural Mendocino communities.

Dance Mission is the preeminent Hip Hop and Caribbean dance school in San Francisco and the welcoming atmosphere encourages seemingly disparate communities to overlap and cross-pollinate. By being financially accessible, the theater, school and company are able to serve the widest possible clientele.

#### **ABOUT KRISSEY KEEFER**

Artistic Director **Krissy Keefer** explores the intersection between art and social issues with fierce inventiveness and a deft comic touch. Coming out of the legendary Wallflower Order (founded in 1975) Keefer has honed her craft over the last 40 years by creating her content driven choreographies that are a high-energy blend of ballet, modern dance, jazz, song, text, sign language and explosive Taiko drumming.

Keefer has a long history of collaborating with a wide array of artists, companies and non-arts community groups. In the highly successful productions of *Women Against War* at the Herbst Theater, she brought together prominent feminist activists, veteran feminist musicians, both established and emerging dance companies, and Grrrl Brigade. Dance Brigade performed as the Greek chorus in the San Jose Repertory Theatre production of Euripides's anti-war play, *Iphigenia at Aulis*, directed by Timothy Near, co-directed and choreographed by Keefer. She has also collaborated with Mary Watkins, Ferron, Holly Near, Copperwimmin, Taiko Master Bruce Ghent, Elaine Buckholtz, Jennifer Berezan, Rhiannon, Christelle Durandy, Terry Sendgraff, Sara Shelton Mann, Kim Epifano, Anne Bluethenthal, Ramon Ramos Alayo, Gina Breedlove, to name a few. Keefer's work has been profiled in numerous magazines, books, and master theses and has won numerous awards for her work in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Dance Mission Theater is supported by Grants for the Arts, San Francisco Arts Commission, Zellerbach Family Foundation and generous individuals.

**DMT 20th Anniversary Video Trailer:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vHSs8gx959g>

**Hi-Res Photos are available for download at:** <https://dancemissiontheater.org/press/>

**Website:** <https://dancemissiontheater.org/>

*"Dance Mission is vital to SF - it expresses the community's voice." -  
Mission District Neighbor*

*"DMT is a place to find access to dance, diversity, feminism, and  
community activism at affordable prices; the social justice emphasis is a  
unique strength." - DMT dancer*

*"DMT has more flavor, energy, passion, and joy than any other place in  
the City. "  
- DMT audience member*

*"My kids wouldn't be the same people without DMT. Grrl Brigade has co-parented my daughter."  
- Grrl Brigade parent*



## CALENDAR LISTING DANCE, THEATER, MUSIC, PERFORMING ARTS

**WHAT:** ¡Adelante! Dance Mission Theater's 20th Anniversary Celebration

**WHO:** Dance Brigade / Krissy Keefer  
Grrrl Brigade  
Arenas Dance Company / Susana Arenas  
Duniya Dance and Drum / Joti Singh  
Micaya  
Allan Frias  
Alayo Dance Company / Ramon Ramos Alayo  
La Mezcla / Vanessa Sanchez

**WHEN:** Friday, November 8 at 7:30pm - One Night Only!

**LOCATION:** San Francisco War Memorial & Performing Arts Center  
Herbst Theater  
401 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102

**TICKETS:** \$10-\$50. Tickets go on sale September 15.

**BOX OFFICE:** <https://dancemissiontheater.org/> or 415-826-4441

**VIDEO TRAILER:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vHSs8gx959g>

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