

*Dance Brigade*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Please contact for interviews and music/video

Dance Brigade presents

## **Hemorrhage:**

# **An Ablution of Hope and Despair**

*A dance installation at the intersection of the new San Francisco and World Politics*

**WHEN: January 24-February 8, 2014**

Thurs-Sat @ 8pm, Sun @ 6pm

\*\*Please note that Sat, Feb 8 shows are at 4pm & 7pm

**WHERE: Dance Mission Theater**

3316 24<sup>th</sup> Street, SF CA 94110

**TICKETS: \$20-\$25**

[www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com) or 1-800-838-3006

**INFORMATION:** [www.dancemission.com](http://www.dancemission.com) \* 415-826-4441

*“In an age overrun with art as a cold, slick, commodity, the **Dance Brigade’s** work remains the real thing.” – Dance Magazine*

*“Their work is richly detailed and nuanced; it also kicks ass... These women put on one hell of a show.” – SF Bay Guardian*

(December 2013) Dance Brigade presents its latest dance-drama installation. Directed and conceived by **Krissy Keefer**, *Hemorrhage* captures the current crisis of world affairs by focusing on the connection between gentrification, global warming, racism and the continued attack on the rights of women. Using the backdrop of the Mission District and the onslaught of recent evictions, Keefer investigates the link between these current events via her hair trigger analysis and long standing commitment to creating content-driven art.

The all-female cast uses explosive text, drumming, dance and theater to examine the dismantling of the Mission District through forced displacement. Set in a junk-yard on the outskirts of town - a junk-yard full of car parts, boats, bathtubs, and found and discarded objects - ten exiled women dance and drum their way through their nightmares and dreams about the affects of local and global politics.

Drawing on the analysis of Rebecca Solnit, Guillermo Gómez-Peña and those who have been recently evicted, Keefer explores the efforts to transform San Francisco into a bedroom community

for Silicon Valley, an action that has a farther reach than just the real estate involved. What does this mean for San Francisco, she asks, a city that has long been a beacon for discourse and action around social and environmental justice and global solidarity movements? And what does this mean for the world?

Dance Brigade is known for the way it uses modern dance, storytelling, and Taiko drumming to create a compelling narrative. Honed over the company's 37-year history, the all-female cast uses strong theatrics, humor and compelling original text to explore today's political and social situation, while also employing contemporary dance forms such as hip hop, house and Reggaeton.

The post-apocalyptic set design is by **Kate Boyd**, Taiko composition is by **Bruce “Mui” Ghent**, lighting design by **Harry Rubeck** and choreography is by **Krissy Keefer**, in collaboration with cast.

*Says Keefer, “Dance Mission Theater has been Dance Brigade’s home for the past 15 years. We have weathered two other booms and busts and literally have a birds’ eye view of the new Mission, as we are located at the corner of 24<sup>th</sup> and Mission on the second story of a historical building – a building that has always been dedicated to the movement arts. Businesses, populations and transportation systems have transformed before our very eyes. San Francisco has long been a hotbed for the fight for social justice. But that is changing and our artistic response is ready.”*

## About the artists:

### DANCE BRIGADE

**Dance Brigade** is biting, intellectual, insightful wit, and provocative originality. 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. This company dances at full throttle. Artistic Director, **Krissy Keefer** explores the intersection between art and social issues with fierce inventiveness and a deft comic touch. Her content driven choreographies are a high-energy blend of ballet, modern dance, jazz, song, text, sign language and explosive Taiko drumming. The company has created over 12 full-length concerts of contemporary dance theater including Pandora's Box, Ballet of the Banshees, Cinderella, Queen of Sheba, Cave Women, Spell, The Revolutionary Nutcracker Sweetie and The Great Liberation Upon Hearing. For these productions, they received numerous grants and awards. Dance Brigade resides at Dance Mission Theater in the heart of San Francisco's Mission District. At Dance Mission they operate a 140-seat theater, run three dance studios, offer adult and youth classes, produce groundbreaking events, and direct Grrrl Brigade, Dance Brigade's youth company.

In 1984, Krissy Keefer and Nina Fichter, original members of Wallflower Order, founded Dance Brigade to create and perform dance-theater that addresses the complex problems of contemporary American women. Together they developed a new kind of modern dance-theater that was stylistically rooted in martial arts, athleticism, and social justice. As the Wallflower Order's members went their separate ways, Keefer and Fichter created the Dance Brigade to carry forward their activist vision. Their original works continued to explore social issues such as war, poverty, breast cancer, women's history, death and dying, and spirituality from a feminist perspective.

In 1998, Dance Brigade began to operate Dance Mission at 24th and Mission Streets in San Francisco. At Dance Mission, they created an affordable 140-seat theater and rehearsal space for San Francisco dancers and artists. They expanded the Adult and Youth Dance Programs to include a full range of dance classes in Hip-Hop, Salsa, Bhangra, Brazilian, Bollywood, Afro-Haitian, modern, ballet and more. Some of the groundbreaking events Dance Brigade has presented and pioneered include the SkyDancers, Women on the Drum, Women Against War, and the Manifest!val for Social Change. Each year Dance Mission helps emerging artists launch their professional careers through the bi-annual Choreographers Showcase and the Down & Dirty Dance Series. In 2004, the Grrrl Brigade was formed as an intensive dance/leadership development program designed to provide high quality dance training, performance opportunities, and a sense of self-empowerment for San Francisco's girls ages 9 to 18. This program began with 10 girls and has now over 60 girls participating.

Dance Brigade recently toured to NYC and Havana in 2011 and to Cairo and Beirut in 2012. In 2011 Dance Brigade celebrated 35-years of female-driven art with a show called "From the Wallflower Order To Dance Brigade" and presented a weekend of free performance and Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. Dance Brigade also operates the Artist Retreat Center in Dos Rios, Mendocino County where they produce performances and workshops and provide space for artist residencies.

## **KRISSY KEEFER, Artistic Director**

**Krissy Keefer**, Artistic Director of Dance Brigade and Dance Mission Theater, has been called the “Mother Courage of Dance” by the San Francisco Bay Guardian. She has produced over 200 performances of her own work and the work of other choreographers, including Contraband, ODC/San Francisco, Robert Moses, Urban Bush Women, San Jose Taiko, and Barrio Rojo from Mexico. She was the co-founder and co-director of the groundbreaking San Francisco Lesbian and Gay Dance Festival, which has been presenting performances, workshops, and panel discussions by established and emerging lesbian and gay dance artists since 1996. She is the co-founder and artistic director of Dance Brigade, a founding member of the Wallflower Order Dance Collective in 1979, a founding member of the Eugene Dance Collective, and a member of both the Edgecliff College Repertory Theater and the Cincinnati Ballet. Ms. Keefer was the Artistic Director of Brady Street Dance Centre from 1996-97. And in 1998 began running Dance Mission Theater. In 1986 she served as Artistic Director and Instructor of the Dance Workout Project for the San Francisco Ballet. From 1978 through 1992 she taught a summer intensive workshop entitled *Art and Politics* in Oakland, California.

Ms. Keefer has directed and choreographed numerous critically and popularly acclaimed productions. For Dance Brigade she collaborated with Nina Fichter to create *The Revolutionary Nutcracker Sweetie*, *Pandora’s Box*, *Bloodroots*, *Crossfire*, and *Love in a Bitter Time*. She collaborated with dancer Laurel Near on a 1990 dance/theater drama entitled *Sleepwalker*, and in 1993 created *Cinderella, A Tale of Survival*, in collaboration with playwright Tony Press and composer Ferron. *Ballet of the Banshees* was created by Ms. Keefer with Kim Epifano in 1996. Her one-woman show, *Queen of Sheba*, received great acclaim in 1999. She has also created *Cave Women* (2000-2003, 2012), *Spell* (2004-2005), *Dry Ice* (2005) and *The Great Liberation Upon Hearing* (2009-2011) for Dance Brigade. She has worked as a choreographer for both the San Jose Repertory Theater and the Berkeley Repertory Theater. Ms. Keefer has had her work performed throughout the United States, as well as in Japan, Europe, Nicaragua, Cuba and the Middle East. She co-directed with Timmy Near on San Jose Rep’s *Iphigenia* (2006) and Dance Brigade’s *The Proud* (2011).

Her awards and recognitions include two Isadora Duncan Awards (2001) for text for “Community Performance Extravaganza” and “Saving SF Dance Space,” “One of the best shows of 1999” for her solo dance drama “Queen of Sheba” from the San Francisco Bay Guardian (1999), two Isadora Duncan Special Awards (1998, 2013), San Francisco Magazine’s Arts Achievement Award for Dance (1998), and a “Goldie” from the San Francisco Bay Guardian (1997). Ms. Keefer has received five choreography fellowships as a Resident Artist/Choreographer from the California Arts Council, three fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, and in 1996 was awarded an Individual Artists Commission by the San Francisco Arts Commission. She has also participated on numerous dance panels.

At Dance Mission Theater, she has directed several festivals including *Manifestival for Social Change*, *Sky Dancers*, *Women on the Drum* and *Voluspa: A Ghost Dance for 2012*.

## **CALENDAR LISTING**

Please note: Hi-res jpegs are available upon request and are online at [dancemission.com](http://dancemission.com)

**What:** Hemorrhage: An Ablution of Hope and Despair

**When:** January 24 – February 8  
Thurs – Sat @ 8pm, Sun @ 6pm \* Shows Sat, February 8 are at 4pm and 7pm

Fri, Jan 24 @ 8pm  
Sat, Jan 25 @ 8pm  
Sun, Jan 26 @ 6pm  
Thurs, Jan 30 @ 8pm  
Fri, Jan 31 @ 8pm  
Sat, Feb 1 @ 8pm  
Sun, Feb 2 @ 6pm  
Thurs, Feb 6 @ 8pm  
Fri, Feb 7 @ 8pm  
Sat, Feb 8 @ 4pm and 7pm

**Where:** Dance Mission Theater  
3316 24<sup>th</sup> Street, SF CA 94110

**Tickets:** \$22 in advance online  
\$25 at the door  
\$15 throw-back Thursdays  
*Brownpapertickets.com or 1800-838-3006*

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