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Pictured: ZiRu Dance; Photo by Jesse Rosenberg

**ZiRu Dance Presents
Third Annual Silicon Valley Dance Festival:
*Renewal***

December 19 and 20

**Featuring livestream Mainstage performances on December 19 by
Beijing Dance/LDTX and Sidra Bell Dance New York,
and Bay Area companies ZiRu Dance,
Robert Moses' KIN, ODC/Dance, and AXIS Dance Company.**

The Festival continues with the Emerging Choreographers Program on December 20.

Both programs will continue on demand through January 3.

Box Office: <https://www.zirudance.com/ticketing>

November 30, 2020, San Francisco, CA — **ZiRu Dance** today announced the **Third Annual Silicon Valley Dance Festival, entitled *Renewal*, presented via livestream on December 19 and 20 and continuing on demand through January 3.** *Renewal* is a year-long project of ZiRu Dance consisting of two festivals -- December 2020 and March 2021 -- workshop classes, and international cultural

exchange focused on positive growth, healing, and equity while helping to dispel xenophobia and feelings of isolation as a result of Covid-19. The December 19 virtual Mainstage festival program features **two world premieres by ZiRu Dance** and the work of seven featured choreographers, including five BIPOC artists: **Philein Wang of ZiRu Dance** (Redwood City); **Robert Moses of Robert Moses' KIN** (San Francisco); **ADIYA of BeijingDance/LDTX** (Beijing, China); **Brenda Way and KT Nelson of ODC/Dance** (San Francisco); **Sidra Bell of Sidra Bell Dance New York**; and **Jennifer Archibald for AXIS Dance Company** (Oakland). The **Emerging Choreographers program on December 20** features the work of Melecio Estrella and Tassiana Willis (BANDALOO), Eric Garcia, Charles Roy Jr., and world premieres by Vincent Chavez, and Miche Wong and Jaime Garcia Castilla. The Mainstage livestream performance is 7 pm PST on Saturday, December 19 and the Emerging Choreographers program is 5 pm PST on Sunday, December 20. Tickets are \$15-\$50. To purchase tickets, go to <https://www.zirudance.com/ticketing>.

Philein Wang, Artistic Director of ZiRu Dance says, "In times like these, dance can serve to shed light on and offer ways to heal from racism, xenophobia, and isolation." She explains that *Renewal* highlights an international roster of artists and the collective growth potential in response to COVID-19. Wang adds, "Bringing together Black, indigenous, and people of color artists from across the nation and around the world spotlights the beauty of our multicultural society."

Renewal is made possible, in part, through support from the U.S. State Department and the U.S. Embassy in Beijing. Dedicated to fair artistic trade exchanges with choreographers and dancers in China for over the past 15 years, ZiRu Dance will bring *Renewal* to China in 2021 for a cross-cultural exchange with dance festivals there, health conditions permitting. The full program for the March festival will be announced in early 2021.

For the Festival, ZiRu Dance will present two world premiere works by Wang. Her ensemble piece, *We Can Hold No More*, uses dance and video to capture the monumental waves of change in the past year, exploring new levels of emotional and cultural vulnerability for Wang, and pushing her and the nine dancers to find healing as the world shifts dramatically around them.

Wang will perform the solo, *Be Still: These Echos of Longing*, created in direct response to recent anti-Asian American xenophobia, which she describes as having "hit home. My home and the homes of others close to me." She adds, "As an individual, I have long remained silent and learned to shield myself from racism and prejudice. But, now, I feel a responsibility - and a vulnerability - as a parent, as a neighbor, as an Asian American, and as an artist, to say more."

ODC/Dance will present *Sleeping Beauty* choreographed by Brenda Way and KT Nelson. Robert Moses' KIN will present the site specific film *The Road to a New Hope* and Sidra Bell Dance New York presents *waiting*, both of which premiered earlier this year. AXIS Dance Company will share an excerpt from Jennifer Archibald's *Petrichor - the smell of earth after rain* (2019). BeijingDance/LDTX will present *Arc* (2018), a symbolic reflection on the arc of life, the ups and downs and the ebbs and flows, choreographed by ADIYA.

The December 20 Emerging Choreographers program premieres two new works by Bay Area-based artists, one by Vincent Chavez and the other by Miche Wong together with Jaime Garcia Castilla. Wang says, "It's important for the Festival to curate a mix of established and emerging choreographers. This opens pathways for artists to develop and it gives audiences the opportunity to experience new and highly relevant work." Chavez's *A Letter From Abuela* traces the choreographer's intimate relationship with his grandmother, centering on her strength, independence and unconditional love - qualities that transcend the restrictive nature of this pandemic.

The Silicon Valley Dance Festival also offers virtual master classes with several of the participating artists, providing students with the opportunity to participate in a fully interactive experience of performances, virtual workshops and talks with the artists.

ABOUT THE SILICON VALLEY DANCE FESTIVAL

Launched in 2016, the Silicon Valley Dance Festival brings the best of contemporary dance to Silicon Valley, California. The Festival provides an annual home for innovative contemporary dance, making the art form accessible to the students and families of the Peninsula and Silicon Valley region. In providing performances, community outreach events and open rehearsals, the festival aims to engage audiences of all ages in all aspects of the creative process.

ABOUT [ZIRU DANCE](#)

Guided by Philein Wang's artistic vision, ZiRu Dance has achieved success in its many local and international ventures since its inception in 2007. In addition to creating original dance works, ZiRu Dance has acted as a cultural liaison for collaboration, education, and exchange between the United States and China. In 2014, ZiRu Dance received key support from the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Embassy in Beijing to create a series of cultural, artistic, and educational exchanges between American dance artists and Chinese communities. Since then, ZiRu Dance has produced 28 tours across 16 cities in China, 25 new works, commissioned 18 works, facilitated 8 individual dancer exchanges, and sponsored over 50 dance education and outreach events.

ZiRu's [Project Dance-O.F.F.](#) provides free virtual dance and movement classes to the community and works with 30+ trusted non-profit and school partners to drive mental wellness, recovery, and community support. Project Dance-O.F.F. was conceived in partnership with leading psychologists and psychiatrists to help address mental health issues and to use movement to help anyone experiencing isolation and depression.

Renewal and Project Dance-O.F.F. are supported in part by support from the U.S. State Department, the U.S. Embassy in Beijing, the Redwood City Arts Commission, the San Mateo County Arts Commission, the Community Foundation of San Carlos and the Arts Loan Fund of Northern California Grantmakers.

ABOUT THE FEATURED COMPANIES

[BeijingDance/LDTX](#) (LDTX) is China's first officially registered private professional dance company co-founded by Willy TSAO and LI Han-zhong in 2005. LDTX is an acronym for Lei Dong Tian Xian which translates as "thunder rumbles under the universe". The company's dancers come from various cities across China, infusing individuality with exquisite artisanship and techniques, excellent creativity, holding high regards and dedication to the art. Since its establishment, the company has created a full library of repertoire works. It has been invited to perform in cities across China and in over 20 countries and regions throughout the five continents. LDTX also presents and organizes a significant international cultural festivity - the "Beijing Dance Festival". The company operates in full perspectives of creating, performing, popularizing and promoting contemporary dance, providing a platform where young artists may freely express their multi-dimensional thoughts and sentiments of today's China.

[Sidra Bell Dance New York](#) is rapidly gaining an international profile for work that reveals aspects of the human condition through a distinctly female lens. The Company has performed extensively throughout the USA, Europe, Canada, and South America. Bell's process is intuitive, collaborative, and emphasizes the integration of multiple design elements and languages. Her work combines design, media, and fashion creating a singular vision in contemporary dance.

[Robert Moses' KIN](#)'s mission is to produce work that speaks to what is specific and unique in human nature. Robert Moses' KIN uses movement as the medium through which race, class, culture and gender are used to voice the existence of our greater potential and unfulfilled possibilities. Moses' focus on the expressiveness of the human body and his desire to speak with the voices of his African American heritage have produced works with regional, national and international recognition.

Since founding Robert Moses' KIN in 1995 in San Francisco, choreographer Robert Moses has collaborated with prominent dancers, musicians, composers, sculptors, authors, poets, and designers to realize the

concept of dance as a unifying form of art, an art form that speaks broadly from a specific place. While touring nationally and creating over 100 original works, Robert Moses' KIN has earned a host of awards, including seven Isadora Duncan Awards (IZZIES), the Bonnie Bird North American Choreography Award, a Bay Guardian Outstanding Local Discovery Award in Dance (Goldie), and a SF Weekly Black Box Award for Choreography. Moses was on faculty at Stanford University 1995-2015. He has been a returning guest artist at the Northwest Dance Project and a mentor with Choreographers in Mentorship Exchange (CHIME). He conducts movement and performance workshops internationally.

Founded in 1971 by Artistic Director Brenda Way, [ODC/Dance](#) was one of the first American companies to incorporate a post-modern sensibility (an appreciation for pedestrian movement) into a virtuosic contemporary dance technique and to commit major resources to interdisciplinary collaboration and musical commissions for the repertory.

ODC/Dance Company's ten outstanding dancers perform its imaginative repertory for more than 50,000 people annually. In addition to two annual home seasons in San Francisco (*Dance Downtown* and the beloved holiday production, *The Velveteen Rabbit*), past highlights include numerous appearances at the Joyce Theater in New York, sold out performances at the Kennedy Center, standing room only engagements in Europe and Russia, and two USIA tours to Asia. In 46 years, ODC/Dance has performed for more than a million people in 32 states and 11 countries, with support from the NEA, the U.S. State Department, and many state and city arts agencies.

Founded in 1987, [AXIS Dance Company](#) is the nation's most acclaimed ensemble of disabled and non-disabled performers based in Oakland, CA. In 1998, Judith Smith took over Artistic Direction, and visioning a repertory company quickly trajected AXIS into the dance world with a commission by Bill T. Jones. Under her direction until 2017, AXIS toured to over 100 cities in the USA, Israel, UK, Europe and Russia. The Company has received seven Isadora Duncan Dance Awards and has appeared twice on FOX TV's *So You Think You Can Dance*, exposing integrated dance to millions.

FESTIVAL WEBSITE: <https://www.zirudance.com/2020-svdf>

FESTIVAL BOX OFFICE: <https://www.zirudance.com/ticketing>



CALENDAR LISTING

Dance, Theater, Music, Performing Arts

"...[a] staggering level of broad-based talent... whatever you do, don't miss [their] show."
-- *Time Out Beijing* (about ZiRu Dance)

"Robert Moses' choreography not only moves you, it makes you want to move."
-- *San Francisco Chronicle*

"BeijingDance/LDTX, with its solemn artistic values and complete dancer ensemble, further confirms its prominent and irreplaceable position in China's modern dance development."
-- China Cultural Journal

"The artists spoke fluently to one other, each in her own language."
-- *San Francisco Chronicle* (about Sidra Bell Dance)

"Brainy, exuberant, and audacious."
-- *San Francisco Chronicle* (about ODC/Dance)

"AXIS' work instructs the viewer in how to appreciate it, and the lesson is delivered with cogent force: Sympathy is irrelevant. Forget what isn't here, and pay attention to what is."
-- *The New York Times*

WHAT: **Third Annual Silicon Valley Dance Festival**
Featuring Beijing Dance/LDTX, Sidra Bell Dance New York, and Bay Area companies ZiRu Dance, Robert Moses' KIN, ODC/Dance, and AXIS Dance Company

WHEN: Saturday, December 19 at 7 pm PST - Mainstage Performance
Sunday, December 20 at 5 pm PST - Emerging Choreographers Performance
On Demand through January 3, 2021

LOCATION: Online

TICKETS: \$15-50
\$15 Emerging Choreographers Program - Livestream
\$30 Mainstage Program - Livestream
\$40 Both Livestream Programs (Emerging Choreographers & Mainstage)
\$50 Two-Weeks: All Festival Access

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