



Maria Gillespie, Artistic Director/Choreographer

For Immediate Release

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Announcing Oni Dance's 2010/2011 Season Finale Performance in Los Angeles
Artistic Director Maria Gillespie presents Oni Dance
in their culminating collection of dance work from the past three years



April 22 – 23, 2011 at 8:00 pm
Blankenship Ballet at Alexandria
501 S. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 10013

CALENDAR LISTING

WHAT: Oni Dance presents world premieres of Vanished Earth, Exquisite.Corpse and a reworking of Wasteland (arrival)
WHEN: April 22 – 23, Friday/Saturday, 8:00 pm both days
WHERE: Blankenship Ballet at Alexandria Hotel, 501 S. Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 10013
TICKETS: \$20 general/\$17 students
BOX OFFICE: www.brownpapertickets.com/event/167959 (or in person at box office)
INFORMATION: onidancetickets@gmail.com
VIDEO CLIPS: www.onidance.org, vimeo.com/11031734, vimeo.com/11906541

(March 26, 2011 – Los Angeles, CA) **Maria Gillespie**, Artistic Director/Choreographer for **Oni Dance**, and one of Dance Magazine's "25 to Watch" (2005) is a prominent Los Angeles based artist known as a "*charismatic, mighty performer with a distinct vision*" (LA Times).

Gillespie is a four-time Lester Horton Award winner, as well as the honored recipient of grants from The Durfee Foundation and the prestigious James Irvine Foundation Grant, Dance: Creation to Performance. Critics from The LA Times, The New York Times, The Village Voice, and Dance Magazine have universally lauded Ms. Gillespie's growing repertory for its "*fearless approach*" and "*unpredictability (both emotional and physical) as it trades on the dramatic implications of kinetic extremes. Gillespie's investigation of the expressive potential of pure movement is at heart resolutely modern*" (LA Times).



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On April 22 and 23, 2011, Southern California audiences and the critical community are invited to share in the culmination of Oni Dance's 2010/2011 season finale taking place in Los Angeles. Gillespie and her 6-member company, Oni Dance, will showcase three dances: world premieres of *Vanished Earth* and *Exquisite.Corpse*, and a complete reworking of *Wasteland (arrival)*, officially still a premiere and not reviewed. Each of these three works is completely different in style and theatrical method; they sit together as a triptych of dances informing each other. The three dances align and conflate themes flagging the body's tactility, fragility, and durability. Beauty and contamination, mortality and reincarnation, as well as migration and alienation crop up in each dance. *Exquisite.Corpse* is an image-based work, *Vanished Earth* is grounded in pure kineticism, and *Wasteland (arrival)* is based on the narratives of characters. These works exemplify the scope of Gillespie's approach to conceptual choreography. She muses that "aesthetically ranging from poignant and tender to raw and far-flung, the work of Oni Dance is centered in creating intricate theatrical environments, which expose the multi-faceted layers of the human psyche up against the texture of being in the world."

ABOUT THE WORK

Vanished Earth (world premiere) contemplates existing between worlds, beginning and ending with spinning, as if in a slow fall between lives, where elation and unity collide with the isolation and violence of migration. Reveling in the movement between states or worlds, the dancers are catapulted along a path of migration: continually spinning, falling, and diving. A strong rhythmic and melodic current of contemporary Polish folk music supports and propels the choreography.

Exquisite.Corpse (world premiere) is a riveting, tense investigation about bodies and boundaries that considers: What is a dangerous body? Dancers lined up, overlapped, and covered - does the grotesque elicit disgust or a compulsion to look closer? *Exquisite.Corpse* presents bodies and their boundaries as exquisite but malleable structures. This dance imagines how the body is simultaneously banal, sublime, and gruesome, and celebrates the body in all its states. The metaphor of the corpse signals a lullaby for the past, a peace with mortality, the pain of non-intimate proximity, and the beauty loving the vanished.

Wasteland (arrival) (revision premiere, not previously reviewed) is a virtuosic and highly nuanced dance set in the aftermath of dystopian ruin. Inspired by Samuel Beckett's *Waiting for Godot*, *Wasteland (arrival)* grapples with the past and the unknown future. Four strangers are thrown into a dirt-covered, torched dystopia. The dancers grapple with their past, present, and limited resources. They discover each other, try on new identities, and cling to their previous selves. While testing the limits of their unfamiliar boundaries, the bruised alliance of this unlikely group unearths the humor and the pathos that glue them together.

Doors open at 7:30 pm. Tickets can be purchased in advance at brownpaperticket.com or at the door. There will be a post-performance discussion with Artistic Director Maria Gillespie following the Friday night performance. Saturday night's performance is followed by a reception.

Oni Dance will perform at Blankenship Ballet at Alexandria Hotel on Friday and Saturday, April 22 and 23 at 8:00 pm. Tickets are \$20 general/\$17 students, and are available at

<http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/167959>

For more information, press inquiries contact Maria Gillespie, onidance@gmail.com or call 818-599-0425.

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Oni Dance, *Wasteland* (arrival)

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Oni Dance, *Exquisite.Corpse*

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Oni Dance, *Wasteland (arrival)*

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