

# 悪魔 ONI DANCE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Photos:** Available upon request

**Who:** Oni Dance

**Where:** Santa Monica Bay Woman's Club, 1210 4<sup>th</sup> St., Santa Monica, CA 90401

**When:** January 23, 24, 25 2009 8:00pm/Friday & Saturday, 7:00pm/Sunday

**Tickets:** \$20, \$17 students/DRC members, for tickets: <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/52570>

***"Gillespie's growing repertory demonstrates a capacious gift for idiosyncratic movement invention that showcases unpredictability (both emotional and physical) as it trades on the dramatic implications of kinetic extremes." (Sara Wolf, LA Times)***

Maria Gillespie, one of Dance Magazine's **25 to Watch** (2005) presents her critically acclaimed **ONI DANCE** as it presents their first performance in Los Angeles since their concert at the Ford Amphitheatre in 2007.

returns to Joyce SoHo this January to present ***The Splendor of Gretel*** and two other New York City premieres.

Los Angeles, CA- Oni Dance is a respected and renowned contemporary dance ensemble based in Southern California. Oni Dance returns their creative focus to Los Angeles after spending 2008 with two performances at Joyce SoHo, NYC where they presented 3 premieres Joyce SoHo's INBOUND Festival. INBOUND is a curated series that invites out-of-town companies to present their dances at the well-known, intimate SoHo venue which is known for showcasing the latest in cutting edge dance.

The three concerts take place Thursday, Friday, Saturday: January 24, 25, & 26<sup>th</sup> at 8pm at Joyce SoHo, 155 Mercer (between Houston & Prince), NYC, NY. Tickets are \$20/\$15 students/seniors and are available online at [www.joyce.org](http://www.joyce.org), by phone at (212) 352-3101, or in person at Joyce SoHo one half hour before each performance. On site sales at Joyce SoHo do not occur at any other time. Seating is general admission.

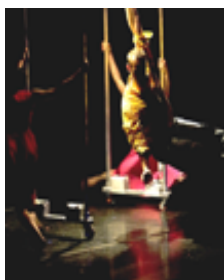
Oni Dance's concert will feature the six-member company in three NYC premieres: the film *Saliendo*, and the dance works, *La Hora de Salir* (2006), and *The Splendor of Gretel* (premiered in LA at The Ford Amphitheatre in 2007). Gillespie has been the recipient of choreographic grants from the Irvine

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and Durfee Foundations and the recipient of four Lester Horton Dance Awards. Oni Dance was formed in 2005 and since has been nominated for eight Horton Awards. Gillespie will present her latest works created in the past year and a half. She has worked closely with her collaborating composer Bryan Koniezko (Ginormous) to create original sound scores to *Saliendo* and *The Splendor of Gretel*. Ginormous' music is also featured in the sound score of *La Hora de Salir*.

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*"The new works all explore the facets of human nature,"* says Oni Dance artistic director Maria Gillespie. *"I have enjoyed a close relationship with these dance artists and together we have unearthed a raw, restless, and graceful movement language that exists as a visceral communication. I hope to reveal and contribute personal experiences that have a universal psychological resonance."*

First on the program is the 8mm dance film *Saliendo*, a collaboration between Gillespie and Kristy Tully (Director of Photography). This film was featured in LA's Dance Camera West Festival in the summer of 2007. *Saliendo* (translated as *leaving*) is part memory, part dream-state, part prophecy; all tumbling together in a kinetic passage through moments of separation. It encapsulates the tranquility and catalytic nature of attachment and departure. This dance film evolved from the next work, *La Hora de Salir*, and was born from its movement vocabulary and has become its companion piece.

*La Hora de Salir* (the hour of leaving) mines the physical and psychological mechanics of leaving. This dance was nominated for six **Lester Horton Awards** in 2006. Through a kinetic narrative that explores the many facets of beginning, attachment, and departure, *La Hora de Salir* unearths the underlying tranquility of solitude found along side change.

Completing the program, Maria Gillespie will show her newest work, *The Splendor of Gretel*, which features original music composition by Los Angeles artist Ginormous, and set design by New York visual artist, Michael Berens and Jeremy Jacobs (LA). This work is a departure for Gillespie as she peels open form and content to allow fable narrative to mingle with investigations informed by a movable set that also serves as the lighting element for the dance. The dance and music for *The Splendor of Gretel* create a surreal, magical landscape in which to experience a movement language laden with theatrical poeticism and seething with idiosyncratic physicality. *The Splendor of Gretel* is ultimately an existential foray in which the characters cross the threshold of the dark side of human nature and are suspended in the balance of splendor and simplicity.

***"...the daring and intricate Maria Gillespie and her ensemble... delve into the tensions of desire and power in (Imperfection/Unsung) with the mercurial, intricate action we've come to expect..."*** -LA Weekly

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