

OPEN DANCE PROJECT AND THE MOODY CENTER FOR THE ARTS AT RICE UNIVERSITY  
PRESENT DADA GERT



Photo: Lynn Lane

HOUSTON, TX [April 16, 2018]—The Moody Center for the Arts at Rice University and Open Dance Project present *DADA GERT*, an immersive work of dance theater conceived and choreographed by Annie Arnoult. The show is inspired by Valeska Gert (1892-1978), a pioneering Jewish dancer/performance artist/film star in Weimar-era Berlin. Audiences will be integrated into the performance space by walking throughout the site-specific, multimedia set designed specifically for the Moody's Lois Chiles Studio Theater.

The new, interactive set designed by Ryan McGettigan, together with music, dance, and costumes, collectively inspired by Gert's life and performance career, will transport audiences to early 1920s Germany. Open Dance Project's multitalented performers embody the raucous performance world of Gert; dancers entice and scold one another through renditions of the latest dance-hall fascination, irreverent jerks and twists, and contorted

faces and mimetic gestures. The piece pits Gert's excessive self-importance against the irreverent playfulness of her Dada counterparts, a conflict of aesthetics which literally comes to blows in a staged battle between the two.

The nine intermission-free, hourlong performances will take place May 11, 12, 18, and 19 at 7:00 pm and 9:00 pm and May 17 at 7:00 pm at the Moody's Lois Chiles Studio Theater. Tickets are \$35 for general admission and are available at [moody.rice.edu](http://moody.rice.edu). The production features mature content and is recommended for ages 13 and above.

*DADA GERT* originally premiered to full houses and critical acclaim in May 2013 and was reprised in January 2014 by Striding Lion Performance Group in Chicago. Open Dance Project's all new version of this piece will be conceived, crafted, and designed to fully incorporate collaborative contributions from the new cast members and a newly conceived, interactive set design that features projections by Christopher Ash and David Deveau and sound by Bryan Ealey, costume design by Jeff Hancock, and music by Hunter Perrin.

### **About Annie Arnoult and Open Dance Project**

Annie Arnoult is the founding artistic director of Open Dance Project, for which she directs the company's professional performance season and oversees the company's extensive dance education work in partnership with Young Audiences Houston and the Houston Arts Access Initiative. Arnoult returned to her native Houston from Chicago, where she was the artistic director of Striding Lion Performance Group, garnering acclaim for the company as a "new center of gravity for indie dance in Chicago" and support from The Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation, The Arts & Business Council, the Arts Work Fund, the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events, and The Illinois Arts Council. Arnoult was recently named one of the "25 to Watch 2018" by Dance Magazine, which cited her "keen attention to detail."

Arnoult is the director of Hunter Dance Center in the Heights and has been a guest artist/teacher at Now Next Dance at Appalachian State University and Sam Houston State University, Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival, The University of Alaska at Anchorage, Northwestern University's National High School Institute, Evanston Dance Ensemble and Alaska Dance Theatre. Her research and choreography have been presented regionally and internationally. She has served on the dance faculty of Northwestern University and The School of Theatre and Dance at University of Houston.

### **About the Moody Center for the Arts**

Inaugurated in February 2017, the Moody Center for the Arts at Rice University is a state-of-the-art, noncollecting institution dedicated to transdisciplinary collaboration among the arts, sciences and humanities. The 50,000-square-foot facility, designed by acclaimed Los Angeles-based architect Michael Maltzan, serves as an experimental platform for creating and presenting works in all disciplines, a flexible teaching space to encourage new modes of making and a forum for creative partnerships with visiting national and international artists. The Moody is free and open to the public year-round.

**Website:** [moody.rice.edu](http://moody.rice.edu)  
**Social Media:** @theMoodyArts | #atTheMoody  
**Phone:** +1 713.348.ARTS  
**Address:** Moody Center for the Arts at Rice University  
6100 Main Street, MS-480, Houston, TX 77005  
(University Entrance 8, at University Boulevard and Stockton Street)

#### *Hours & Admission:*

The exhibition spaces are open to the public and free of charge Tuesday through Saturday from 10am to 5pm, and closed Sundays, Mondays, and holidays. Events and programs are open to the public through an advance reservation system. For schedule, tickets and prices, visit [moody.rice.edu](http://moody.rice.edu).

#### *Directions & Parking:*

The Moody Center for the Arts is located on the campus of Rice University, and is best reached by using Campus Entrance 8 at the intersection of University Boulevard and Stockton Street. As you enter campus, the building is on the right, just past the Media Center. There is a dedicated parking lot adjacent to the building. Payment for the Moody Lot is by credit card only. For campus maps, visit [www.rice.edu/maps](http://www.rice.edu/maps).

#### **About Rice University**

Located on a 300-acre forested campus in Houston, Rice University is consistently ranked among the nation's top 20 universities by U.S. News & World Report. Rice has highly respected schools of Architecture, Business, Continuing Studies, Engineering, Humanities, Music, Natural Sciences and Social Sciences and is home to the Baker Institute for Public Policy. With 3,879 undergraduates and 2,861 graduate students, Rice's undergraduate student-to-faculty ratio is 6-to-1. Its residential college system builds close-knit communities and lifelong friendships, just one reason why Rice is ranked No. 1 for quality of life and for lots of race/class interaction by the Princeton Review. Rice is also rated as a best value among private universities by Kiplinger's Personal Finance. Read ["What they're saying about Rice."](#)

#### **Press Contact**

Connie McAllister | +1 713-348-4115 | [cmcallister@rice.edu](mailto:cmcallister@rice.edu)