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JAMES GRAHAM DANCE THEATRE PRESENTS

ALPHA MOUSE

An evening-length dancetheater work

SEPTEMBER 28 – OCTOBER 1, 2017

ODC THEATER, SAN FRANCISCO

SAN FRANCISCO, August 24, 2017 – IZZIE award winning choreographer and performer James Graham presents his newest evening-length work, *Alpha Mouse*. This dancetheatre piece looks at gender equality and the desire to understand. The work is performed by Graham and core company members Carolina Czechowska, Casey Lee Thorne, and Galen Rogers, plus an additional ten dancers woven throughout the work as integral performers multiplying images and offering diversity in movement.

Alpha Mouse has been James Graham's major creative focus for the past year. One of the questions Graham asked at the beginning of this process was: How do we all (including men/ gay men) support gender equality and show up and speak for gender equality (without perhaps speaking *for* women)? *Alpha Mouse* explores and illuminates "roles" that women are portrayed as in our culture: Czechowska and Thorne move through exposing the tropes of sex object, powerful witch, hysterically crazy, sisterly and nurturing, and as being a representation of the "divine feminine." Somehow none of those quite fit the human experience of being female. The work visits a "Eulogy for Masculinity," an abstracted "baby-bird-fell-out-of-the-nest" dance, and a ritualized cleaning of an iconic female body from the grime she has to endure in a patriarchal society...fun for the whole family!

In preparation for this work, Graham choreographed "Open Your Gate" for *Trolley Dances* in October 2016. This quintet was performed outside at the intersection of Market and Castro streets. The work cast the city as a character interacting in our lives; Graham related the idea that "she was like a mostly benevolent goddess-creature choreographing our every movement, controlling our lives for better or worse." This element, portrayed by Carolina Czechowska in "Open Your Gate," will be expanded upon and questioned in *Alpha Mouse* (also by Czechowska). The title *Alpha Mouse* is an obvious play on Alpha Male (Also Wolf and Silverback gorilla), and denotes an idea that there is power inside of delicacy, and that unassuming individuals (female or male) can affect profound changes in society.

Graham's dancetheatre style incorporates his theatre and chorus experiences. His works layer movement, text, and song to allow for different modes or avenues into his work. He also utilizes his physical practice of being a Certified Gaga instructor with Ohad Naharin and Batsheva Dance Company of Tel Aviv, Israel. Related to Gaga, his choreography values diving into the range of human experience and being able to access our ugly, delicate, grotesque, and silly places.

WHEN: September 28 – October 1, 2017

Thursday, Friday, and Saturday @ 8pm, Sunday @ 7pm

WHERE: ODC Theater, 3153 17th St., San Francisco

TICKETS: \$20- 35 www.odc.dance/tickets

https://odc.secure.force.com/ticket/#details_a0Soa000005ZK7TEAW

For high resolution images contact James Graham:

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ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES:

JAMES GRAHAM DANCE THEATRE was formed in 2010 to encompass the choreographic projects of James Graham. JGDT has recently been presented at ODC Theater in SFDanceWorks' home season, Kennesaw State University, Micadanses Paris, the Daegu International Dance Festival in South Korea, *Trolley Dances* San Francisco, The Nourse Theatre and Davies Symphony Hall (commissioned by the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus), The University of Calgary, Dominican University, National Queer Arts Festival, Kunst-Stoff Arts, Too Much! Festival, Movement Research at Judson Church, Joe Goode Annex, UC Berkeley, The Ohio State University, and in the National A.I.D.S. Memorial Grove in Golden Gate Park. JGDT also curates the work of other artists, namely in *DANCE LOVERS*, his annual Valentine's show of duets.

JAMES GRAHAM is an SF based choreographer, performer, and teacher. In 2017 he received an IZZIE for "Ensemble Performance" (with Sebastian Grubb) for James Graham Dance Theatre's "Homerom." In 2015 he received an IZZIE for "Individual Performance" (for his Entire Season) and was nominated in Choreography (for "Guilty Survivor").

Graham is a Certified Gaga Instructor (Ohad Naharin/Batsheva Dance Co.) and took part in Naharin's pilot training program of international Gaga teachers. He has taught Gaga extensively in the U.S., as well as in Canada, France, South Korea, Germany, Sweden, Thailand, and Israel. He is currently on faculty at UC Berkeley and Dominican University/LINES' BFA Program. Graham holds an M.F.A. in Dance from The Ohio State University and a B.A. in Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies from UC Berkeley. He is currently a company member with the Joe Goode Performance Group and Lisa Wymore & Sheldon Smith's Disappearing Acts.

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