

Jody Oberfelder Dance Projects 212.777.6227 <http://www.jodyoberfelder.com>

For Immediate Release:

Jody Oberfelder Dance Projects 20th Anniversary Season

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Thursday-Saturday March 11-13, 2010 8 PM

Abrons Arts Center 466 Grand Street at Pitt Street, Lower East Side

For tickets: <https://www.ovationtix.com/trs/pr/702905>, Full Price \$20, Students/Seniors/Artists \$15

Gala: Opening Night Performance and Champagne Reception: Thursday, March 11th

Gala Tickets: \$250, \$150

"Fresh, imaginative...full of invention and wit..." Roslyn Sulcas, The New York Times

HEADS or TALES

An eccentric retrospective celebrating the 20th Anniversary of **Jody Oberfelder Dance Projects**, this fairy tale-like journey careens from the epic to mundane and from operatic to ordinary with acrobatic physicality, **HEADS or TALES** emphasizes the connections and stories of our lives. To be premiered at the Abrons Arts Center (Henry Street Settlement) March 11-13, 2010, **Heads or Tales** is a new piece comprising decades of Oberfelder's choreography, which is distilled into one evening on stage. Quoting from her own choreography and dance films, Oberfelder's **Heads or Tales** will not be a superhero blockbuster or a romantic comedy. However, the work, augmented with cameo appearances from an all-star cast of former company dancers, is an amalgam of the past and present weaving together a philosophical narrative.

Jody Oberfelder Dance Project's current company of eight dancers will be joined by over 35 guest performers, some dancing on stage, others singing live, and yet more through dance film projections. Dances to be re-visited include: excerpts from Oberfelder's raucous "Head First" (1986)—a crash helmet dance, first presented as a solo at PS 122, the tender "Rock Me Mama" (1995)—danced by new mothers and their babies, along with original cast members and their now teenage children, including alumni Denise Roberts Hurlin with her ABT dancing daughter, Cate Hurlin. Also featured is the hilarious and perky "X-Cheerleaders" (1994), the fantastical "The Story Thus Far" (2002)—based on Grimm Fairy Tales, and clips of "Dido & Aeneas" (2008). Other bits from the past find their way on the stage. Guest performers Edisa Weeks, Luke Gutgsell, Brandin Steffensen, Lynn Neuman, Jule Ramirez, Kim Irwin, and many others add zest to a core group of eight dancers: Brynne Billingsley, Aditi Dhruv, Elise Knudson, Rebekah Morin, Jody Oberfelder, Edward Rice, Jake Szczypek, and Carlton Ward. Lighting design by Kathy Kaufmann, costumes by Katrin Schnabl and Liz Prince and live music to be performed by Malina Rauschenfels, Melody Fader, Tine Kindermann, Kamala Sankarem, and Andrew Nolen.

Jody Oberfelder (Artistic Director/Choreographer) voted "Outstanding Choreographer" in the 2009 FringeNYC Festival, creates strong, athletic expressive choreography, with large doses of humor and humanity. Her recent forays into opera and theater include choreographing a new take on the classic epic **Dido & Aeneas**, commissioned by the Orchestra of St. Luke's, which the NY Times called, "fresh, imaginative, and utterly charming," and Stravinsky's **Soldier's Tale**, commissioned by Brooklyn Philharmonic and Orchestra New England. Jody is also an avid dance filmmaker. Oberfelder's company has performed for international audiences at venues in Europe and Asia, most recently in The Belgrade Dance Festival with performances at The Belgrade State Theater in Serbia and the State Theater of Montenegro. The company has performed nationally at Jacob's Pillow, MASS MoCA, The Stewart Theater at NCSU, MOCAD in Detroit, and The Yard in Martha's Vineyard, among other venues. Jody was a 2007-08 Joyce Soho Residency Artist a recent NYFA BUILD and DCA grant recipient. Prior to her twenty-year dance adventure, Jody took the stage singing in a punk rock band at CBGB's. Her body of work continues to exude this raw, personal and powerful physicality.