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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bay Area Dance troupe **Nina Haft & Company** presents

King Tide: Shoreline

A Site-Specific Dance and Music Performance About Water and Climate Change For All Ages

May 29, 30 and June 5 at the Hayward Shoreline

WHO: Nina Haft & Company in collaboration with Dan Gottwald, Sound Designer and the Hayward Shoreline Interpretive Center

WHAT: *King Tide: Shoreline*, a dance and music performance about water and climate change

WHEN: Sunday, May 29; Monday, May 30; and Sunday, June 5; shows at 12 noon and 6:00pm

WHERE: Hayward Shoreline Interpretive Center, 4901 Breakwater Avenue, Hayward, CA 94545

TICKETS: Free and open to the public (no reservations necessary). Appropriate for all ages.

INFO: For more information, call Shawl Anderson Dance Center, 510.654-5921 or email nohaft@gmail.com or visit www.ninahaftandcompany.wordpress.com

TERRAIN: The performance progresses along a two-and-a-half mile loop on the Bay Coast Trail. Audience members should come dressed for wind and variable temperatures, and for walking on level ground. The trail is wheelchair accessible.

DESCRIPTION:

Hayward, CA – May 9, 2016 – *King Tide: Shoreline* is a site-specific dance performance about water and climate change. Our performance explores the fragility and resilience of local watersheds and the shoreline. We ask: What can we learn about climate change from balances and extremes in our bodies, our movement, and our relationship to the shoreline? *King Tide: Shoreline* premieres at the Hayward Regional Shoreline in May and June with six free, site-specific performances of dance along a two-and-a-half-mile stretch of preserved Bay wetlands. Audiences will be immersed in both cinematic vistas and intimate experiences of water, air, earth and sun, followed by refreshments and community conversations about climate change.

King tides are extreme tide patterns that take place in winter when the sun and moon pull water across the earth in opposite directions. Artistic Director Nina Haft consulted the Farmer's Almanac, local tide charts and other sources to develop this dance performance. *King Tide: Shoreline* explores how natural forces shape our movement, and how we might cultivate better responses to changes in our natural world.

The choreography in *King Tide: Shoreline* is wild and poetic, and entirely created in dialogue with the tides, the weather and the coastline. Part One is called MARSH. Guided by Shoreline Center naturalists, audiences hike in from the parking lot to the water's edge, encountering dancers embedded throughout the landscape, at times resembling birds camouflaged in the mud

and grasses of the fragile wetlands. **MARSH** is inspired by cyclical patterns and bird movement and by subtle, incremental changes in nature.

Part Two is called **MYTHOS**. We draw inspiration here from the body as resilient and vulnerable terrain. We dive into the ancient Greek myth of Thetis, the goddess who dipped her son Achilles by the ankles in the river to protect him from the ravages of war, yet forgot that her grasp would leave his heel untouched by the healing powers of the water. This section of the work takes place on a footbridge spanning an outlet of the San Lorenzo Watershed into the San Francisco Bay. **MYTHOS** explores exposure, vulnerability, and our efforts to shield future generations from natural disasters or climate change. These dances can be witnessed up close and also from great distance, in a form of live cinema.

Part Three is called **MIGRATION**. We return to the beachhead, where sand, surf and washed up debris shape movement phrases and our ability to connect.

Part Four is called **MOUTH**. This coda resembles a surrealist tea party. The dancers alight on a bench, where questions about climate change, choice and futility swirl like a mounting wind. This quicksilver section segues into a promenade of audience and performers back to the Shoreline Center, where we will share tea and a post-performance conversation about the performance, water, and climate change.

KING TIDE: Shoreline is a collaboration between choreographer Nina Haft and a team of exceptional artists:

--Dancers: Josie Alvite, Lisa Bush, Nathan Forster, Leah Kahn, Carol Kueffer, Qilo Matzen, Mo Miner, Robin Nasatir, Lili Weckler and Jesse Wiener.

--Musical Instruments by Dan Gottwald. Music improvised by Dan Gottwald and David Seamus.

Nina Haft's work in has been profiled in Dance Magazine and supported by Margaret Jenkins' Dance Company/CHIME, Djerassi Resident Artist Program, Hambidge Center for Arts and Science, and by Shawl-Anderson Dance Center, where Nina Haft & Company is in residence. Haft is known for her *Dance in Unexpected Places Series*, where she "shapes space with a sculptor's savvy" in libraries, dockyards, synagogues, parking lots, pubs, cemeteries, and other liminal places.

King Tide: Shoreline runs May 29, 30 and June 5, with shows each day at 12 noon and 6:00pm. All performances begin at the Hayward Shoreline Interpretive Center, 4901 Breakwater Avenue, Hayward, CA 94545, and progress along a two-and-a-half mile loop of the Bay Coast Trail. Audience members should come dressed for wind and variable temperatures, and for a 90 minute walk on level ground.

These performances are FREE and open to the general public. No reservations are necessary, and the trail is wheelchair accessible. For more information, call Shawl Anderson Dance Center, 510.654-5921 or email nohaft@gmail.com and visit <http://ninahaftandcompany.wordpress.com>.

NINA HAFT & COMPANY is an Oakland-based contemporary dance company that investigates the deep nature of place. Founded in 2000 with the premiere of “*The Making of Americans*” (based on Gertrude Stein’s novel), the company is known for their cultural commentary and site-specific works, as well as dances for the camera. Nina Haft has been an artist in residence with the California Arts Council, City of Oakland Public Libraries, Djerassi Resident Artist Program, CHIME (Margaret Jenkins’ Dance Company Choreographers in Mentorship Exchange), Hambidge Center for Arts and Science, and at Shawl-Anderson Dance Center. Ms. Haft has received funding from the City of Oakland Creative Arts Fellowships, Theatre Bay Area, Met Life New Stages for Dance, W.A. Gerbode Foundation, Clorox Company Foundation and Zellerbach Family Foundation. Her *Dance in Unexpected Places* Series has presented performances in train stations, libraries, pubs, synagogues, dockyards, government buildings, parking lots, and Oakland’s historic Mountain View Cemetery. She is an Associate Professor in the Department of Theatre and Dance at CSU East Bay, and an artist in residence at Shawl-Anderson Dance Center.

CALENDAR LISTING

Oakland, CA. – Nina Haft & Company, in partnership with Dan Gottwald and the Hayward Shoreline Interpretive Center, presents ***King Tide: Shoreline***, a family-friendly dance and music performance about water and climate change. ***King Tide: Shoreline*** runs May 29, May 30 and June 5 with shows at 12noon and 6:00pm. Admission is free and open to the general public of all ages. Some limited seating is available, while most audience will stand and walk between locations. Dress in layers for wind and variable temperatures, and in comfortable shoes for walking the 2.5 mile performance loop. The trail is level ground (dirt and gravel), and wheelchair accessible.

For more information, visit www.ninahaftandcompany.wordpress.com, email nohaft@gmail.com or call (510) 654-5921. ***King Tide: Shoreline*** is made possible with support from the Zellerbach Family Foundation, Margaret Jenkins CHIME, Shawl-Anderson Dance Center, Hambidge Center for Arts and Science, California State University East Bay, and generous individuals.

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