

Press Contact

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Liss Fain Dance Contemplates *Silence* for 2009 SF Home Season Upon Return From Eastern Europe Tour



Fain goes for the evocative yet unsettling with US premiere of *Out of the Silence* set to the music of Gyorgy Ligeti and Osvaldo Golijov and imports special guest Poland's Lublin Dance Theatre to San Francisco for the US debut of that company's *Toward the Good Silence*; Fain will also reprise 2005's *Unknown Land* along with 2008-9's *Resolved*, set to the intellectual, rhythmic and unruly grace that is the music of Steve Reich

August 27,28 & 29 at YBCA's Novellus Theater at 8:00pm; tickets \$30-\$35.00 available at YBCA Box Office, 415-978-2787 or through www.lissfaindance.org

June 30 2009, San Francisco – San Francisco's Liss Fain Dance returns from its tour of Eastern Europe and Russia with the US premiere of *Out of the Silence*. Also on the program is special guest Poland's Dance Theatre of Lublin, whose *Toward the Good Silence* sees its US debut. Fain will also reprise 2005's *Unknown Land* (also with music by Ligeti alongside her recently completed *Resolved*, set to the intellectual, rhythmic and unruly grace that is the music of Steve Reich.

With stops in Warsaw, Poland, followed by Minsk, Belarus and St. Petersburg, Liss Fain Dance completed its tour July 3, 2009.

Known for her synthesis of ballet and modern disciplines—with an emphasis on long lines as well as the gestural and the abstract—Fain pursues working with artists from not only other disciplines, but from other cultures also; “It expands my own vision. I'm interested in concepts, and how the entirety of the visual experience, movement, music, and visual design combine to

augment each other.”

Out of the Silence is a 21minute dance that begins with two dancers absolutely still on the stage before they begin to move with a sense of deliberation. Thus begins a motif of falling and/or being caught that repeats throughout the performance in a variety of tones ranging from the introspective, urgent and disquieting to the energetic and lush.

In the first section an introspective urgency and disquiet set to *Atmospheres and String Quartet # 1* by Gyorgy Ligeti, reflects the unpredictable and sometimes startling images that "we conjure," says Fain, "out of the feeling of complete quiet that surrounds you when you awaken at night and continue experiencing an image or feeling from a dream." The quiet underpinnings of the unconscious abruptly break away in the second section—set to Osvaldo Golijov’s *Marcel*—as interweaving layers of lush movement pour out in waves, continually building and subsiding. “

Poland’s Lublin Dance Theatre presents the US debut of *Toward the Good Silence*, based on the personality and work of the Polish writer, graphic artist and literary critic Bruno Schulz, known for both his extraordinary imagination and his penchant for solitude. Using dense, twisted and theatrical movements, choreographer Ryszard Kalinowski and dancer Anna Żak tell a delicate, even lyrical story about a man and woman who are both close to and far away from each other, and their mutual deceptions, fascinations and humiliations.

“I wanted to bring Ryszard here to perform alongside us,” says Fain, “because I was so impressed with his use of narrative as a springboard for physical theater. While the fact that our titles are so similar is a complete coincidence, it does perhaps speak to a certain artistic simpatico that makes for an interesting series of evenings.

“In Eastern Europe,” explains Kalinowski, who is also known for his work in contact improvisation, there was training in classical ballet or theater, but there was no formalized modern dance training, so dancers who wished to work in a contemporary vein were influenced in large part by theater.”

“Toward the Good Silence” (to Bruno Schulz)

Duration: 20 min.

Choreography: Ryszard Kalinowski

Music: Ruth von Mengersen, Louis Sclavis, Kroke

Dancers: Anna Żak, Ryszard Kalinowski

Premiere: March 2002

US Premiere: San Francisco, August, 2009

Also on the program are: *Unknown Land* (2005) Music: Gyorgy Ligeti and *Resolved* (2008/9) Music: Steve Reich

Unknown Land: Gyorgy Ligeti’s Piano Concerto provides the backdrop for a dance that shows

individuals caught in world where they have only partial control during a time of great upheaval. This work was created after reading Edward Jones' book *The Known World* (Liss Fain, 16 minutes)

Resolved: set to City Life by Steve Reich, this duet investigates the merging and choices made about union, separation and equality in a relationship between two people. (Liss Fain, 8 minutes)

High Res photos available at <http://picasaweb.google.com/Kryptonitesf/LissFainDance#>

What: Liss Fain Dance & Poland's Dance Theater of Lublin

When: August 27, 28 & 29 @ 8pm

Where: Novellus Theater at YBCA 700 Howard Street @ 3rd Street, San Francisco

Tickets: \$35 /30 general \$32/27 seniors, students

By Phone: 415-978-ARTS (2787)

Online: www.lissfaindance.org or ybca.org (after July 20, 2009)

In Person: YBCA Box Office, 701 Mission Street

About Lublin Dance Theatre

Lublin Dance Theatre was established in 2001 by Hanna Strzemiecka, the Theatre's first choreographer and artistic director, and Anna Żak, Ryszard Kalinowski and Wojciech Kaproń, members of the Contemporary Dance Group of Lublin University of Technology. This group has been one of the first, independent contemporary dance theatres in Poland, and after several years from the start of its operation the Group developed its own original style and started to be recognized in Poland and abroad. Thanks to the consistent implementation of their artistic mission a professional dance theatre was established at the Culture Centre in Lublin.

Lublin Dance Theatre has been a participant of numerous festivals and presentations in Poland, e.g. Bytom, Kraków, Warszawa, Gdansk, Poznan, Lodz and worldwide - USA, Switzerland, France, Hungary, Germany, Spain, Russia, Lithuania, Belarus, the Netherlands, Finland, Tunis, Austria, Ukraine. More information www.ltt.art.pl/en

About Liss Fain Dance

Liss Fain has worked with filmmakers, visual designers, technologists and electronic media designers on projects that have toured nationally and internationally. The company's performances range from concerts of all dance pieces to works integrating dance, visual design and technology. Committed to pursuing artistic cross-cultural exchanges through performances, workshops, and master classes, Liss Fain Dance builds dynamic relationships with artists from other regions and cultures... "here at last is a choreographer who takes the chances—with extremely important and difficult scores—that matter." (Voice of Dance)

Working with media artists since the 1980's, Liss Fain early on became known for innovative collaborations. She has created vibrant, abstract work for proscenium and non-traditional spaces; productions that fuse experimentation with kinetic precision. The music she works with—

rhythmically complex, evocative, challenging both the choreographer and the dancer—is integral to the development of the movement and ideas of the piece.

Liss Fain's choreography has been performed at and presented by Yerba Buena Center for the Arts; Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival; Open Look International Dance Festival (St. Petersburg, Russia); Central European Dance Festival (Warsaw); Minsk Philharmonic Society (Minsk, Belarus); Belaya Vezha International Theater Festival and Grodno Drama Theater in Belarus; the Silesian Dance Festival, the Contemporary Dance Forum (Poland); Lazienski Park (Warsaw); West Wave Dance Festival; California State Summer School of the Arts; Southside Theater, Edinburgh Festival Fringe; Celebrate Dance; Central Coast Summer Dance Fest; Theater Artaud; Cowell Theater; ODC Theater; Julia Morgan Center for the Arts; Zeum; San Jose State University; the International Computer Music Conference; Valley Center for the Performing Arts; and the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts. While in Boston in the 1980's, her company performed at, among others, the Downtown Dance Festival, NYC; the Cunningham Studio, NYC; ArtCulture Resource Center, Toronto; Dance Umbrella, Boston; Harvard University; University of Massachusetts; Colby College; Clark University; Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Center for Advanced Visual Studies; Portland Center for the Arts and First Night Boston.

Liss Fain Dance has received funding from the Trust for Mutual Understanding; The US Embassy in Poland; The US Embassy in Belarus; the Polish Cultural Institute in New York; the San Francisco Arts Commission; the Zellerbach Family Foundation; the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation; The Walter A. Gerbode Foundation; C.A.S.H.; the Fort Mason Foundation; the Marin Arts Council; the National Endowment for the Arts; the Tides Foundation; the Massachusetts Council on the Arts and Humanities; and corporate and individual donors. She studied modern dance at the Cunningham Studio and ballet with Svetlana Afanasieva, Richard Thomas and Maggie Black. In NYC, she danced with Twyla Tharp Dance and Battery Dance Company.

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