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**LISS FAIN DANCE RETURNS TO SAN FRANCISCO'S
NOVELLUS THEATER
YERBA BUENA CENTER FOR THE ARTS FOR ITS 12TH ANNUAL
FALL SEASON SEPTEMBER 11-13, 2008**

Bay Area dance company returns from successful European tour performing at Poland's largest festival: the International Contemporary Dance Festival, Bytom and receives prestigious Fullbright-Hays Fellowship

(San Francisco, CA – July 31, 2008) Liss Fain Dance returns to the Novellus Theater at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts on September 11-13, 2008 for its 12th annual fall season. This year's season features choreography by Artistic Director Liss Fain including a U.S. premiere entitled *Looking, Looking* and the world premiere of a dance theater piece, *At the Time*: a duet for Dexandro Montalvo and Bethany Mitchell set to music by Steve Reich; as well as work from repertory—Ms. Fain's *The Line Between Night and Day* (2005) and *Crossing* (2004). Matthew Antaky, a two-time recipient of the Isadora Duncan Award for Visual Design, will be creating sets and lighting.

Liss Fain Dance recently returned from a successful multi-festival tour across Poland including performances at the **Silesian Dance Theater Festival** in Bytom, the largest festival in Eastern Europe, and teaching at the **Warsaw Ballet School** followed by a performance arranged by the **U.S. Embassy**. In addition, the Company was awarded the prestigious **Fullbright-Hays Fellowship** to teach at the Warsaw Ballet School and the Warsaw Center for Contemporary Dance in July 2008. Liss Fain Dance's 2009 overseas tour will include Russia for the first time with performances in **St. Petersburg**.

Among the program highlights of the 12th season will be the U.S. premiere of Ms. Fain's *Looking, Looking* and the world premiere of a dance theater piece, *At the Time*: a duet for Dexandro Montalvo and Bethany Mitchell set to music by Steve Reich. *Looking, Looking* draws on Ms. Fain's experiences during the company's September 2007 tour of

Eastern Europe where she was deeply affected by the contrast between the beauty of the work she saw performed there and the bleak, gray after-effects of the fading communist regime. The sadness and melancholy-infused wit of their artistic collaborators in the host country was a sharp contrast from Ms. Fain's experience of walking through the 12th Century ruins of Cambodia's Angkor Wat, where towering stone faces of the Buddha, carved into each side of every tower of the ancient temple, radiated timeless, peaceful introspection. ***Looking, Looking*** is set to Bela Bartok's Concerto for Viola.

The Line Between Night and Day (2005) is set to two movements of Olivier Messiaen's *Quartet for the End of Time*. The music, written while Messiaen was in a prisoner of war camp during World War II, vacillates wildly between strident sections and serene, Debussy-like music. The emotionality and unexpected dynamic shifts in the music conjure images of paradise lost—alternating between the turmoil and anguish of profound loss and gentle, wistful memories of the past. The dance grew out of Biblical images of Adam and Eve being expelled from Eden and from the horrific changes that overtook Europe with World War II.

Crossing (2004) was based on both the music—The Violin Partita Number 1 by Bach—with its sharply defined, fluid melody, and the visceral writing in Cormac McCarthy's book, *All the Pretty Horses*, as his character struggles with emotional integrity.

Tickets for Liss Fain Dance performances are priced \$30 to \$35. To order tickets by phone, please call 415-978-ARTS (2787) or visit www.ybca.org. For more information about Liss Fain Dance visit www.lissfaindance.org

About Liss Fain

Liss Fain brings a wealth of experience in dance to her role as Artistic Director of Liss Fain Dance. She was a member of the Twyla Tharp Dance Company in the mid-1970s during its seminal days. From her base in Boston in the 1980s, Fain created Liss Fain Dance and toured the East Coast to venues that ranged from Downtown Dance Festival in New York City to Harvard University and MIT.

Ms. Fain expands the choreographic and performance parameters of contemporary dance by integrating into her choreography the ideas and designs of artists from other disciplines and technologists; since founding the company in 1989, she has collaborated with film makers, visual designers, musicians and technologists on projects that have toured nationally and internationally.

Her work has been supported by the Trust for Mutual Understanding, the US Embassy Poland, the US Embassy Belarus; the San Francisco Arts Commission, the National Endowment for the Arts, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation; the Marin Arts Council, The Walter A. Gerbode Foundation; The Zellerbach Family Foundation, CASH, The Fort Mason Foundation, The Tides Foundation, and the Massachusetts Council on the Arts and Humanities.

About Liss Fain Dance

Since relocating to the Bay Area in 1990, Liss Fain Dance has established a local presence through annual home seasons in San Francisco, presented at the Novellus Theater at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, Fort Mason's Cowell Theater, ODC Theater, and Theater Artaud.

The company has performed at venues that include: Novellus Theater at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts; Silesian Dance Theater Festival; Belaya Vezha International Theater Festival and Grodno drama Theater (Belarus); Contemporary Dance Forum (Poland); the International Contemporary Dance Festival, Bytom (Poland); Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival; California State Summer School of the Arts; Edinburgh Festival Fringe; Celebrate Dance; Central Coast Summer Fest; West Wave Dance Festival; Theater Artaud; the Cowell Theater; ODC Theater; Julia Morgan Center for the Arts; Zeum; San Jose State University; the International Computer Music Conference; and the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts; the Downtown Dance Festival; NYC; the ArtCulture Resource Center, Toronto; the University of Massachusetts; The Dance Umbrella, Boston; Harvard University; Colby College; and The Center For Advanced Visual Studies, Massachusetts

Institute of Technology.

The company also tours throughout Europe with recent performances at the International Contemporary Dance Festival, Bytom (the biggest festival in Poland), and an upcoming tour in St. Petersburg in 2009.

The Company's work has been supported by the Trust for Mutual Understanding, the US Embassy Poland, the US Embassy Belarus; the San Francisco Arts Commission, the National Endowment for the Arts, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation; the Marin Arts Council, The Walter A. Gerbode Foundation; The Zellerbach Family Foundation, CASH, The Fort Mason Foundation, The Tides Foundation, and the Massachusetts Council on the Arts and Humanities.

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

Liss Fain Dance presents 12th annual home season, featuring two world premieres

When: Thursday, September 11- Saturday, September 13, 8 pm

Where: Novellus Theater
Yerba Buena Center for the Arts
700 Howard Street, San Francisco

Tickets: \$30-\$35

Available by calling the Novellus Theater at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts box office: calling (415) 978-2787 or online at www.lissfaindance.org

For more information about Liss Fain Dance, visit the company's Web site at <http://www.lissfaindance.org>

Editors please note: Photos and b-roll are available by contacting Shannon Atlas, 415-203-4363 or e-mail Shannon_atlas@mac.com

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