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For Immediate Release

LITERARY INSPIRATION FOR TWO WORLD PREMIERES IN LISS FAIN DANCE'S HOME SEASON AT YBCA JUNE 17 - 19

For Tickets: 415/978-2787, or www.lissfaindance.org.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 12, 2010—The vibrant contemporary dance company **Liss Fain Dance**, presents two World Premieres that were both inspired by literary works, for its **Home Season 2010**. Director **Liss Fain** was drawn to Per Petterson's *Out Stealing Horses* for **How it Ends**; and she selected the title for the other work **Speak of Familiar Things** from the poem *Debris of Life and Mind* by Wallace Stevens. Performances take place **June 17, 18 and 19** at the Novellus Theater in Yerba Buena Center for the Arts.

"*Speak of Familiar Things* is about change, both unexpected and deliberate, and its aftermath," Fain stated. "It also examines the pleasure of the new and the longing for the familiar, particularly when metamorphosis creates discomfort or shifting perspectives. The dance is comprised of solos and small group sections."

The dance is set to a commissioned score by Bay Area composer **Dan Wool**, formerly of the San Francisco-based rock band, **Pray for Rain**, and best-known today as a soundtrack composer. *Repo Man* director Alex Cox heard a demo tape and asked the group to record Wool's instrumental score for the now classic cult-film *Sid and Nancy*. Wool has since contributed to an eclectic array of projects. From the guitar-driven score for Cox's take on spaghetti-westerns, *Straight to Hell*, to Daniel Lee's minimalist, *Journeyman*, he has demonstrated an ability to enhance the visual story while creating stylistically distinct scores for each project undertaken. He has invented scores that embrace everything from boozy Mambo (*Since You've Been Gone*) to funk-ed-out goofiness (*Car 54 Where Are You*) and melancholy heroism (*Roadside Prophets*). He has also created distinctive musical scores for a variety of media, including the feature film *Searchers 2.0*, the BBC documentary *5 Westerns*, and music for major domestic and international advertising campaigns.

How It Ends was inspired by Per Petterson's coming of age novel, *Out Stealing Horses* about the events of a pivotal summer as remembered by a boy in adulthood. The dance is about the naïveté and energy that compels action and then self-reflection, boldness and rumination. The scores range from high-energy percussion to minimalist strings with text and liturgical choral music.

Fain chose the music for *How it Ends* with contrasts in driving energy, introspection, anxiety and calm, and set the work in four distinct segments to four separate pieces by **Iannis Xenakis**, **John Tavener** and **Marcos Balter**.

Dancers in the company roster for these performances are **Brendan Barthels**, **Jennifer Beamer Fernandez**, **Mira Cook**, **Jeremiah Crank**, **Shannon Kurashige**, **Alec Lytton**, and **Bethany Mitchell**.

"A choreographer who takes the chances...that matter" (*Voice of Dance*), **Liss Fain** creates abstract contemporary dance pieces expanding the performance parameters by presenting original works that integrate the ideas and designs of artists from other disciplines. Since founding her company in 1989, she

has created more than 40 new works, and has collaborated with film-makers, visual designers, musicians and technologists on projects that have toured both nationally and internationally.

Since 2007, LFD has performed at festivals in Poland and Belarus and in St. Petersburg, Russia. In 2006 the company appeared daily at Southside Theater in Edinburgh during a three-week residency as part of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. The company is committed to artistic cross-cultural exchanges through performances, workshops, and master classes that contribute to mutual understanding and respect between citizens from different countries and cultures. International appearances have been sponsored U.S. Embassies in host countries, the Open Look Festival, Trust for Mutual Understanding, USAI, Silesian Dance Festival, and International Dance Forum.

Recent and upcoming tours in the U.S. include performances at Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, and California State Summer School of the Arts, as well as at Harvard University, MIT, University of Massachusetts, Colby College and Clark University; Theater Artaud, Cowell Theater, Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, the International Computer Music Conference, and the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts.

LFD is one of only four American companies invited to perform this August at the **Internationale Tanzmesse** NRW, in Düsseldorf, Germany. A leading global marketplace and festival platform for contemporary dance, Tanzmesse's five-day festival will offer some 35 performances and events from 53 artists representing 25 countries. LFD will attend as part of the American delegation hosted by Dance/USA, the national service organization for American dance companies. The company will perform the acclaimed full company piece *Unknown Land*. For more information on the Tanzmesse, visit www.tanzmesse-nrw.com <<http://www.tanzmesse-nrw.com>.

Tickets priced from \$15 - \$30 for the Liss Fain Dance performances on June 17, 18 & 19 at the Novellus Theater, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts may be purchased through the YBCA Box Office at 701 Mission Street, by calling 415/978-2787, or on-line at www.lissfaindance.org.

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LISS FAIN DANCE HOME SEASON 2010

Featuring Two World Premieres:

How it Ends* and *Speak of Familiar Things

Novellus Theater at YBCA, 701 Howard St. @ 3rd St., San Francisco

JUNE 17, 18 & 19 at 8 pm

Tickets: \$30 and \$25

\$15 seniors and students

Box Office: 415 978-ARTS (2787) or online: www.lissfaindance.org

In Person: YBCA Box Office, 701 Mission St.

"Visceral, emotional, compelling. Liss Fain's dynamic movement combines the clarity and precision of ballet with the emotion and abstract experimentation of contemporary dance. It is as rigorous as it is attention-demanding...shimmering." - *Dance Magazine*.