



This Dance This Place

@ Danzhaus (1275 Connecticut, San Francisco)

September 30-October 9, 2010

Media contact:
Brechin Flournoy
Sagacity Communications
Sagacity.co@gmail.com
415-935-5138

- WHO: **Lizz Roman & Dancers**
Choreography by **Lizz Roman**
Live sound score: Alex Kelly (cello), Clyde Sheets (DJ/Percussion), and Jerome Lindner (electronic music)
Dancers: Tara Fagan, Brian Fisher, James Graham, Cameron Growden, Kelly Kemp, Sonya Smith, James Soria
- WHAT: **"THIS DANCE THIS PLACE"** (premiere)
- VENUE: **Danzhaus** (1275 Connecticut Street @ Cesar Chavez, San Francisco)
- DATES: **September 30 – October 2 and October 7 - 9, 2010**
Thursdays – Saturdays at 8:00pm
- TICKETS: **\$20 general admission** (please note audience size limited and no late seating)
- BOX OFFICE: <http://www.brownpapertickets.com>
- INFORMATION: 415-970-0222 and lizzromananddancers.com

(San Francisco, CA – August 30, 2010) **Lizz Roman & Dancers** – the Bay Area's award-winning dance company – invites you to traverse the halls, stairways, and backrooms of **Danzhaus** (a.k.a. The Ginger Bread House) in a singular performance event called **THIS DANCE THIS PLACE**.

Roman's unique choreographic style has established her as one of SF's favorite site choreographers. What sets Lizz Roman & Dancers apart from other site-specific choreographers is Roman's commitment to make dances that respond to the architecture; rather than impose the dance on the space. All of the rehearsals occur on-site as Roman and her company explores the movement possibilities that the space yields. Lizz Roman & Dancers' athletic, strikingly beautiful dances enliven the theater in a way that dance writer/performer Keith Hennessey commented the "choreography of architectural archeology."

In their usual fashion, Roman and her crew have scoped out all the best places to play and are climbing, hanging, tumbling and dancing their way through the building, discovering all the nooks and crannies that define Roman's signature site work. From the choreographer's perspective, this project is as much about creating an evening of dance as it is about creating a new and unusual experience for the audience. So, as the event sites shift, so does the audience.

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THIS DANCE THIS PLACE is Lizz Roman's most ambitious audience escapade to date. The first part of the dance is a traveling exhibition in an open gallery environment where audiences will barely settle in as the dance appears around them, constantly challenging the audience to find the dance. Roman acknowledges that it's impossible to see everything, which is the underlying theme of THIS DANCE THIS PLACE.

During the performance of THIS DANCE THIS PLACE Lizz Roman & Dancers will lead audiences through a series of dances that illuminate and give new meaning to the interior spaces that we often take for granted (hallway, ledge, room, etc.) Once the audience is settled in the main space, the second half of the night will unfold along the walls, in bathroom doors, along ledges, up high in a balcony, through windows, and in a stairway, creating a breathtaking dance that literally pours out of every dance-able crevice in the space. *"To watch Roman's dancers – who with utmost ease and grace can be languid and focused in one moment and effortlessly kicking attacks in the next – is just breathtaking...Roman proves that sometimes the dancer is the dance. And that can be enough."* (Rita Feliciano, SF Bay Guardian)

Roman is excited to introduce her latest dance crew, made up of an eclectic blend of local professional dancers, veterans and rookies alike who take on the task of dancing through Danzhaus with a beauty, grace and athletic ferocity that defies gravity. LR&D veterans James Soria (2000), Sonya Smith (2005), James Graham (2006) Kelly Kemp, Tara Fagan, and Brian Fisher (2009), welcomes new collaborator Cameron Growden.

Accompanying Roman's dancers through the building with an original live sound score will be long time Lizz Roman & Dancers collaborators, **Alex Kelley** (cellist), **Clyde Sheets** (DJ/ Percussion) and introducing **Jerome Lindner** (electronic music). Roman's long time music collaborators return with a new member and are ready to ramp it up as the sounds of Kelley's cello and Sheets textural sound score are layered with Lindner's hip hop beats.

Lighting the way will be **Jenny B** of Shadylady Lighting. Her lighting design is her art. She combines lighting design with a creative eye and innovative energy solutions.

Finally, Roman is excited to collaborate with costume designer **Jamielyn Duggan** (1st alternate for 6th season of **Project Runway**) whose designs emphasize fashion focused costuming. As a designer and performing artist in San Francisco, her work encompasses the avant-garde to the casual, fashion that moves and innovative costumes made to be seen through performance.

In order to facilitate a premium experience for everyone, the audience size is limited and there is a strict no late seating policy. Therefore advance tickets are strongly encouraged. Tickets are available through brownpapertickets.com.



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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

LIZZ ROMAN, Artistic Director of LIZZ ROMAN & DANCERS has been dancing and choreographing in San Francisco since 1984. Romans most recent works, "AT PLAY" (2009) and "BLUE FLOOR REFLECTIONS"(2006) both played to sold out audiences and received critical acclaim for being "Eloquent", "Breathtaking" "Provocative" "Engrossing work " "Captivating" "One can be grateful that Roman arrives at the task without agendas, simply to fashion eloquent steps within an unconventional setting." "Artaud became what felt like an underwater playground." In 2004, Roman was commissioned by the SF Butoh Festival and Yerba Buena Gardens Festival to create a site specific dance which premiered in 2004 and was remounted again in 2005. In 2005, the company was nominated for an Isadora Duncan Award for company performance for "CELLGROUND". In 1998, Roman received the SF WEEKLY Black Box Award for Cross Genre Performance.

Over the course of their work, Roman and her company known for their trademark languorous movements and expansive dances that spring, roll and fly through buildings and off of large sets, have developed innovative ways to work in site specific venues as well as with original sets and a variety of multi-media collaborators, resulting, in 1998, in a BLACK BOX AWARD for CROSS GENRE PERFORMANCE for "IN HER DREAMS" a site specific collaboration with local filmmaker Kevin Cunningham, commissioned by ODC Theater. In 2005, she earned a nomination for an IZZIE award for best company performance in 2005.

Aside from creating site dances, Roman also teaches modern dance and performance workshops in and around the Bay Area. She currently teaches modern dance and contact improvisation at ODC Dance Commons and is the choreographic mentor for their emerging artists program PILOT. From 2006 to 2007, Roman taught modern dance at the University of California, Berkeley and from 1999 to 2003, Roman worked with large groups of dancers each year as a part of the workshop Performance Series at Rhythm & Motion Dance Studio in SF. Before moving to SF in 1984, Roman lived in Chicago where she studied theater at the Goodman School of Drama. She attributes much of her choreographic style to her years as a student and performer of improvisational theater and dance in Chicago and St. Louis. Roman is also a certified Pilates instructor and currently is co-owner of PARKSIDE PILATES LLC in SF.

Her dances have been seen at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, Theater Artaud, ODC Theater and Commons Rooftop, Dance Mission Theater, CellSpace, DanzHaus, Dancers' Group, Brady St. Theater, and Counterpulse in SF. Additional teaching credits include, LNES Ballet Center, Shawl Anderson Dance Center, The School of the Arts in SF, Berkeley High and Rhythm and Motion Dance Center. Roman is also a member of Divisadero Research Company, an improvisational dance group founded by contact improv maverick Nita Little. Additional information is found at lizzromananddancers.com