



## This Dance This Place

@ Danzhaus (1275 Connecticut, San Francisco)

September 30-October 9, 2010

Media contact:  
Brechin Flournoy  
Sagacity Communications  
[Sagacity.co@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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 Hennesey 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.

more



## This Dance This Place

@ Danzhaus (1275 Connecticut, San Francisco)

September 30-October 9, 2010

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 (2001), Sonya Smith (2005), James Graham (2006), Kelly Kemp, Tara Fagan, and Brian Fisher (2009), welcome 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** (1<sup>st</sup> alternate for 6<sup>th</sup> 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. Thus advance tickets are strongly encouraged. Tickets are available through [brownpapertickets.com](http://brownpapertickets.com).



## This Dance This Place

@ Danzhaus (1275 Connecticut, San Francisco)

September 30-October 9, 2010

### COMPANY HISTORY

**LIZZ ROMAN & DANCERS** is a site specific dance company initially formed in 1993. Since premiering a series of site specific dances in various local venues, the press said, "it is unclear where she will go from here, but the results are guaranteed to be provocative", "Roman is a Bay Area dance fixture", "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", "One can be grateful that Roman arrives at the task without agendas, simply to fashion eloquent steps within an unconventional setting."

The company has performed in numerous bay area venues including Theater Artaud, Yerba Buena Gardens, Danzhaus, CellSpace, ODC Theater, and Counterpulse. They have pioneered a style described as the "choreography of architectural archeology." Lizz Roman & Dancers consists of an ever changing group of multi-talented dancers who are versatile with dance training in traditional modern dance, release technique, and contact improvisation. The company has also collaborated with filmmaker Kevin Cunningham, Poet Katastrophe, musicians, Daniel Berkman, Talitha Jones, Jill Shaw, Ben Kessler, Alex Kelly and Clyde Sheets.

Over the course of their work, Roman and her company have become well-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 [SF WEEKLY BLACK BOX AWARD](#) for CROSS GENRE PERFORMANCE (1997) and a nomination for an [ISADORA DUNCAN AWARD](#) (IZZIE) for best company performance (2005). View images on the Voice of Dance Photo Gallery: [Lizz Roman & Dancers](#)

### A FEW WORDS FROM THE PRESS

"In *At Play*, Lizz Roman's newest choreography of architectural archeology, a vibrant quintet of dancers enlivens the walls, windows, doorframes, studios, hallways, bathrooms, and fire escapes of Dance Mission Theater. And it's impossible to see everything. Shit. Then I realized that's the point. It's about the unseen, the surprise, the revelation and the sudden disappearance. It's about the periphery in relation to the center and it's about, "Where did she go?" and "Where did he come from?"

~ Keith Hennese, [zeroperformance.blog](#), [culturevulture.net](#)

"Roman saw the architecture and changed its implications. Instead of stark reality, Artaud became what felt like an underwater playground" ~ Rita Felciano, Dance View Times

"One can be grateful that Roman arrives at the task without agendas, simply to fashion eloquent steps within an unconventional setting." ~ Allan Ulrich, Voice of Dance

"Roman's greatest talent lies in her ability to frame dancers like a camera's lens in the architectural features of the spaces she makes her dances in." ~ Criticaldance.com



## This Dance This Place

@ Danzhaus (1275 Connecticut, San Francisco)

September 30-October 9, 2010

### THIS DANCE THIS PLACE, COLLABORATORS

**ALEX KELLY**, musician, is a San Francisco based cellist. He also is an accomplished composer, teacher, electronic musician, conductor, and author. After earning three Bachelor degrees and two Master degrees Alex completed a doctorate in cello and composition from the University of Oregon. He has since performed with and/or written music for multiple professional orchestras, chamber orchestras, new music ensembles, string quartets, cello quartets, jazz combos, rock bands, Klezmer/Balkan bands, dance companies, and circus troupes. He has performed with Joan Jeanraud, the Paul Drescher Ensemble, the 7th Ave String Quartet, Pamela Z, Berkeley Repertory Theater, Lizz Roman & Dancers, the Margaret Jenkins Dance Co., the Pickpocket Ensemble, the Mark Growden Sextet, Zakir Hussain, and Bob Weir. Alex performed a solo cello + electronics solo set for the first Davies Symphony Hall *After Hours* series, among others. Alex teaches at the College of Marin and the Urban School of San Francisco, and has 25 private students. His method book, *The Seven Points*, helps cellists of all skills levels to improve pitch accuracy through a fingerboard mapping technique.

**CLYDE SHEETS**, musician, is a lighting and scenic designer, educator and musician. He has designed work for Theatre, Ballet, Opera, Musical Theatre and Modern Dance and is based in the San Francisco Bay Area. He teaches Dance lighting and production at Mills College in Oakland, Ca. and has trained students in electrics, lighting design and production at San Francisco State University, where he earned his MFA in Lighting Design in 2010.

Clyde's was awarded an Isadora Duncan Dance Award in 2006, for the lighting and scenic design of Deborah Slater Dance Theatre's *Hotel of Memories* at CounterPULSE in San Francisco. His lighting design for Lizz Roman & Dancers *Blue Floor Reflections* was accepted by the USITT Emerge exhibit for the Prague Quadrennial in 2011, where he will also be a participating designer.

In 1988 Clyde was a founding member of The Mad Dog Theater, the award winning San Francisco band who, from 1988 to 92, wrote and performed original rock musicals at several venues in San Francisco and Los Angeles. Clyde is also a DJ who creates sound scores for modern dance concerts with cellist Alex Kelly.

Recent lighting design work includes; *Juliet*, a devised work based on Shakespeare's *R&J*, Directed by Mark Jackson in 2010 at San Francisco State University. Other work at SFSU includes Smetena's *Opera The Bartered Bride* and the Coleman/Gelbart musical *City of Angels*, directed by Barbara Dameshek. Other work includes; Lizz Roman and Dancers 06 production of *Blue Floor Reflections* at Theater Artaud and 05's *Cellground* at Cell Space in S.F., for which he designed lighting and performed the music as a DJ with Cellist Alex Kelly; Sean Dorsey's *Outsider Chronicles* at the ODC and Dance Mission Theater's in S.F in 05 and 06 and *Uncovered: The Diary Project* at Dance Mission Theater in 09 and 10. Other work includes Lighting Director for the Oakland Ballet for 2 seasons, designing works for Gloria Carreras and Francesca Harper, designs for Cid Pearlman, Nina Haft, Liam Clancy, Cheryl Chaddick, Chris Black, Ken James, Cynthia Adams and *Fellow Travelers*, Lily Cai, Robert Henry Johnson and Akira Kasai. Also, the chamber operas *Queer* and *Sub Pontio Pilato* composed by Erling Wold, and Anna Halprin's 80th Anniversary concert.



## This Dance This Place

@ Danzhaus (1275 Connecticut, San Francisco)

September 30-October 9, 2010

### THIS DANCE THIS PLACE, COLLABORATORS - continued

**JEROME LINDNER**, musician, is currently working on perfecting his craft, as a Hip-Hop/Rap music producer and will be attending Ex'pression College for Digital Arts, in pursuit of a Bachelor's Degree in Sound Arts. Jerome studied guitar with local musician and music producer Richard Michos, and has not looked back since. Eventually, Jerome found a niche as a DJ during his high school years. He spun dances for San Francisco schools such as The San Francisco School, Live Oak School, School of the Arts, and Convent of the Sacred Heart. From his work as a DJ, Jerome got into the production side of music and began to compose and produce instrumental Hip-Hop/Rap music. Jerome also plays the guitar, drums and flute.

**JENNY B**, Light Designer, **Shady Lady Lighting** has created a name for herself by mind blowing lighting effects, strong imagery with using conceptual lighting. Her achievements include: Connie Francis LIVE @ the Castro Theatre Feb.2007, San Francisco's New De Young 2005 Month long Opening Celebrations, New Year's Eve @ The Cliff Hotel 2001-2005, Castro Theatre San Francisco permanent installation, Bill Shannon the Crutch Master of NYC, Brava Theater's special events, San Francisco's International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival Special Events, National Queer Arts Festival (Women in Music series at Brava Theater, Sini Anderson's Displacement, and Margo Gomez, Straight Wet Female.) For Smash TV Jenny B was hired to create environments enhancing vibe on a international broadcast of Gold Chains.

**JAMIELYN DUGGAN**, Costume Designer

Jamielyn is the creative director of Eimaj Design, a performing artist, and San Francisco native. Her work encompasses avant-garde to casual commissioned fashion that moves and innovative costumes made to be seen through: performance, media, fashion show production, styling, visual and graphic design, and art direction and production. With an emphasis on fashion focused dance costumes, her work has been seen on: im'ij-re, Hope More Dance, Liss Fain Dance, SOTA, LINES/BFA and training program, and her project company Urban Pointe Evoc'tion. Achievements include work displayed at the De Young Museum, an Izzy nomination for design, and being cast as 1st alternate for season 6 of Project Runway.

### THIS DANCE THIS PLACE, DANCERS

**TARA FAGAN** is a Bay Area performer, choreographer and movement educator. In 2005 she received a BFA in Dance Performance and Choreography from California Institute of the Arts where, as a merit scholar, she studied Bartineiff Fundamentals, Laban and Contact Improvisation under her mentor, the late Lyndon Branaugh. That same year she received her teaching certification from It's Yoga San Francisco. Fagan's influential teachers include Colin Connor, Luana, Kathleen Hermesdorf, Scott Wells, her instructors at Gerstung Gymnastics and of course, Lizz Roman. As a professional dancer she has worked with, among others, Scott Wells, Kelly Kemp, Aura Fischbeck, Todd Courage, Christine Cali and Rose Pasquerello Beauchamp. Fagan's choreography has been shown in Los Angeles, Baltimore, Berkeley and San Francisco. Through Performing Arts Workshop, a non-profit that connects artists with local schools and community centers.

more



## This Dance This Place

@ Danzhaus (1275 Connecticut, San Francisco)

September 30-October 9, 2010

### **THIS DANCE THIS PLACE, DANCERS – continued**

Tara Fagan teaches creative movement in the program, San Francisco Pre-School for All. Through Fitness in Transit she teaches creative movement, yoga and gymnastics in Bay Area schools. She is also a House Manager at Theater Artaud and ODC Theater. This is her second season with Lizz Roman & Dancers.

**BRIAN FISHER** began dancing at New York University Tisch School of the Arts where he received a BFA in dance. While in New York he danced for, or appeared in works by, numerous choreographers including Rosalind Newman, Igal Perry, Ali Porfarouk, Alvin Ailey, Lar Lubovitch, Kurt Joos, Kenneth Rinker, Nina Wiener, Doug Varone, and Tchoo San Goh. Along the way he also danced on Broadway in La Cage Aux Folles, and in national tours of the Music Man and Wizard of Oz Live where he danced for legendary Broadway choreographer Onna White. He was also handpicked as one of 44 dancers nationwide to dance for the Presidents of the United States and France at the re-opening of Liberty Island after the renovation of the Statue of Liberty.

Since moving to the Bay Area he has danced for many choreographers and companies including such longtime associations as ODC Dance San Francisco, Berkeley Ballet Theater, the Mark Foehringer Dance Project, and Sean Dorsey Dance. He has also appeared in works by Amy Seiwert, Rebecca Salzer, Victoria Morgan, Corinne Blum, Sonya Delwaide, Corinne Jonas, Robert Moses, Kathryn Rozak, Kevin Ware, Brandon Freeman, and Richard Chen See among others. He has appeared as a guest artist for Diablo Ballet, Peninsula Ballet Theater, Anima Mundi and has danced several seasons with the San Francisco Opera Ballet. In 2001 Brian was awarded the Isadora Duncan Award for Ensemble Performance. Brian teaches both modern and ballet technique classes and has taught as a faculty member at the ODC School Curriculum, Teen Dance Company, Danspace, and Berkeley Ballet Theater. He has also served as a faculty member for the Lines BFA Program through Dominican University, and as a guest lecturer for Stanford University. This is Brian's second project with Lizz Roman & Dancers.

**JAMES GRAHAM** is a movement artist (dancer/choreographer) and a video artist (documentation, production, dances for camera). Graham recently graduated from The Ohio State University with an M.F.A. in Dance focusing on Choreography, Performance, and Videodance. He earned a B.A. in Theatre and Dance from UC Berkeley, where he studied Modern, Contact Improvisation, DanceTheatre, and performance art. He has worked with Joe Goode, Bebe Miller, Susan Hadley, Janice Garrett, and Amy Raymond among others. He has worked with William Forsythe/ Forsythe Company Members and with the Batsheva Dance Company in Tel Aviv, Israel (after being awarded the Kathryn Karipides Scholarship in Modern Dance). He is thrilled to be working with Lizz Roman and Dancers again.

**CAMERON GROWDEN**, originally from Minneapolis attended school in Beloit, Wisconsin where he studied dance and creative writing. He's now lived in San Francisco for a little more than three years and dances for Kelly Kemp and Co., Hope Mohr Dance, and Scott Wells and Dancers. He also has a thing for lighting design, so you may have seen him sneaking around backstage once or twice.

more



## This Dance This Place

@ Danzhaus (1275 Connecticut, San Francisco)

September 30-October 9, 2010

### THIS DANCE THIS PLACE, DANCERS – continued

**KELLY KEMP** has been performing, creating and teaching dance for the last two decades or so. Her professional interests in Dance and Education enabled her to study and teach at studios, schools, universities and festivals throughout the United States and abroad from 1994 to 2002. Along the way, she had the pleasure of dancing for a slew of colleagues, faculty and guest artists including Mark Taylor, Marta Renzi, Sean Curran, & David Dorfman. Significant influences in her training include east coast's Dance Alloy and Maureen Fleming, as well as local favorites like Joe Goode and Kim Epifano. Since moving to the Bay Area in 2002, Kelly has been fortunate to continue performing with the likes of Epiphany Productions, Spinning Yarns Dance Collective, Flyaway Productions, Sonya Smith, Deb Slater Dance Theater, and, of course, Lizz Roman & Dancers. In addition to managing and directing her own peeps, Kelly continues to teach ongoing dance classes and private sessions in butoh, release and other post-modern forms throughout the area, most recently at the University of San Francisco and ODC. She thanks her lucky stars to be a part of this project and company, and kindly thanks Lizz for her mentorship and super-guru-guidance over the past two years!

**SONYA SMITH** loves movement, in all its forms, on the ground, in the air, and all the places in between. She's delighted and privileged to have danced with LR&D since 2005. Smith's own choreography, presented in Portland, Kansas City, and San Francisco, often combines aerial apparatus, props, modern dance and contact improvisation. She is newly excited by creating movement for theater productions such as Vanguardian productions *Truce*, Crowded Fire's *Forever Never Comes* and Berkeley Playhouse's *Cinderella*.

As a performer she has been honored to work with incredible Bay Area artists including Eat Cake Productions, Dance Brigade, Berkeley Playhouse's productions of *Peter Pan* and *Singin' in the Rain*, Project Bandaloop, and Zaccho Dance Theater.

**JAMES SORIA** studied modern dance at Columbia College in Chicago, IL. He has also had the opportunity to train with Hubbard Street, Gus Giordano, and Joel Hall. James has appeared in professional productions of *A Chorus Line*, *West Side Story*, *Kiss Me Kate*, *GodSpell*, and *Evita*. On stage, he has also appeared as a dancer with Tommy Boy recording artist Crystal Water's and Cajual Records recording artist Dajae. In video James has had the privilege to work with Antony & the Johnson's for their new video, *Epilepsy Is Dancing*. James is a Chicago native and has been dancing in the San Francisco Bay Area for 10 years. In that time, James has had the privilege to work with Danny Ngyuen & Dancer's, Dana Lawton, Ground Patrol, and Davalos Dance Company. He has also shown work as part of ODC'S Pilot Series. James has been with LR&D since 2001.

more



## This Dance This Place

@ Danzhaus (1275 Connecticut, San Francisco)

September 30-October 9, 2010

### A WORD FROM THE LIZZ ROMAN, CHOREOGRAPHER

"As choreographer and artistic director of LIZZ ROMAN & DANCERS, my aesthetic is towards athletic, beautiful pedestrian dances that spring, roll and fly through an environment. My style is unique in that I choose to work exclusively in site, and have developed a choreographic style described in 2009 by dance writer/performer Keith Hennesey as the "choreography of architectural archeology."

By serving as the focal point, each space uniquely presents the company with the challenge of creating a dance vocabulary that reflects the space, remaining honest to our theme. I see each dance as collaboration between myself, my dancers, musicians and lighting designer. I rely strongly on my dancers' multi-disciplinary training and their ability to take dance risks in spaces that require strength and daring. I also enjoy allowing the audience to move around during a performance.

In my most recent projects at Dance Mission Theater, Theater Artaud, Yerba Buena Gardens, ODC Dance Commons Roof Top and CellSpace, the audience experienced these dances from all sides and levels as the dancers and audience moved from the streets into the building to take in the 360 degree dance experience that surrounds them. At CellSpace, for example, the audience sat in the middle of the warehouse and took in a dance that happened around them often having 10 dancers moving simultaneously at varying levels 360 degrees around them. The company received an Isadora Duncan Award nomination for company performance for this particular piece.

I also enjoy collaborating with artists from other genres. In 1997, I collaborated with filmmaker Kevin Cunningham on films for IN HER DREAMS, a site specific installation piece that earned a SF WEEKLY BLACK BOX Award for Cross Genre Performance. In ALWAYS FALLING, I captured the verbal rhythms and pace of an urban setting by layering video, spoken word of Kassy Kayiotos, and music of Amber Asylum with a 14 foot staircase at Brady St. Theater in SF. In CELLDANCE, the company began its long standing commitment to use live music in performance by collaborating with local musicians Talitha Jones (cello), Daniel Berkman (percussion), Jill Shaw (keyboards) and light designer Clyde Sheets. Sheets has remained the companies light designer for the past 5 projects, but turned the mantle over to Jenny B of SHADYLADY Lighting for AT PLAY, 2009. Shaw and Jones collaborated with the company again for 81/2 x 11 and Berkman returned to compose and perform HERE IS GOOD. In 2004, I first collaborated with musicians Clyde Sheets (turntables, percussion) and Alex Kelly (cello). Together we have premiered, CELLGROUND 2005, BLUE FLOOR REFLECTIONS 2006, AT PLAY at Dance Mission Theater 2009 and will premiere our latest site dance at Danzhaus in Sept. 2010. Images from that dance are on [Onion Kroegeer](#)."

~ Lizz

###