

LIZZ ROMAN & DANCERS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT: David Hyry (415) 441-1992 daldenh@aol.com

**Lizz Roman & Dancers Inhabit A 2 Story Home
In San Francisco's Outer Sunset Neighborhood In A New
Site Specific Journey Through An Ocean Beach Home
Engaging The Architecture With Performance, Composer
Jerome Lindner's Original Musical Score Performed Live
with Films By Award Winning Filmmaker Pete Litwinowicz**

“Sunset Dances II”

**Featuring Dancers - Chris Black, Colin Epstein, Clarissa Ko, Jenny McAllister,
Gizeh Muniz, Jamie Nakama, Becky Robinson-Leviton and Sonya Smith**

September 6 To 22, 2019

**Friday, Saturday and Sunday @ 8:30pm
Home Salon Performances**

In a home near San Francisco's Ocean Beach on three weekends from September 6 To 22 the award winning Lizz Roman & Dancers inhabit a two story dwelling with a new site specific journey, engaging the architecture with performance, music and film. Revealing, engaging and immersive, Roman's newest project “Sunset Dances II” draws audiences into an intimate experience. The living paths of this home become in multiple simultaneous performances, an active breathing “happening” experience with viewers in each location traveling throughout the performance environment. “Sunset Dances II” features choreography by Lizz Roman with dancers Chris Black, Colin Epstein, Clarissa Ko, Jenny McAllister, Gizeh Muniz, Jamie Nakama, Becky Robinson-Leviton and Sonya Smith. The production includes academy award winning filmmaker Pete Litwinowicz and award winning lighting designer Clyde Sheets, musician/composer Jerome Lindner and new percussionist Malcolm Lee and vocalist Tamsin Black performing an original live score.

“The dances I make are emotional explorations of human interactions set in buildings...” Lizz remarks. “As we create a dance, I often feel like the dance becomes a long embrace between my dancers and the building, watching them dance with each other through the walls, doors, stairs, and hallways is both soothing and exhilarating. The dance is the sum of the journey we take through the space.”

Lizz Roman's unique choreographic style has established her as one of California's leading site choreographers. This sequel to her award winning SUNSET DANCES: Architectural Meditations II (2017) is performed in multiple locations with viewers at each location migrating throughout the home performance environment. With “Sunset Dances II” Lizz Roman & Dancers engage space and time in a deeply immersive site experience, simultaneously from 3 different perspectives. Using windows, doorways, stairs, walls and furniture to frame their architectural story, performers and audience move together between the indoor and outdoor sites. Viewers peer inside and outside windows, doorways, down stairwells and enter into rooms with dancers, musicians and films as the dance moves from room to room, from up to down, from outside to inside, watching one dance from varying perspectives.

Lizz Roman, Artistic Director of LIZZ ROMAN & DANCERS (LR&D) has been a dancer and choreographer in San Francisco since 1984. “The dance is the sum of the journey we take through a site,” states Roman. “In the words of LeCorbusier, 'To create architecture is to put in order. Put what

in order? Function and objects.' I seek guidance from each building I collaborate with," continues Roman. "I create a visual history of our physical journey through that space that becomes a dance. It is driven mainly by the architecture of the space."

Roman and her company have been making dances in San Francisco's dance spaces, local theaters, and outdoor festivals since 1995. The work has been described by critics as "Eloquent", "Breathtaking", "Provocative", and "Captivating." LR&D are best known for their trademark expansive dances that spring, roll, and fly through buildings, resulting in an Isadora Duncan Dance Award (IZZIE) for outstanding choreography in 2017 SUNSET DANCES: Architectural Meditations and 2013 for "DEEPER: Architectural Meditation at CounterPulse" (2012), and an IZZIE nomination for Best Company Performance for CELLGROUND (2005). The company has developed innovative site-specific techniques to work in unique and commonplace locations with a variety of multi-media collaborators and scenic elements. WaterSaw, Roman's most recent music collaborators received an IZZIE Award for Original Music score for 2012's "DEEPER." The SF Butoh Festival and Yerba Buena Gardens Festival commissioned Roman to create a site-specific dance, which premiered at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in 2005, and was remounted again for the 2006 festival season. In 1998, Roman and filmmaker Kevin Cunningham received the SF WEEKLY Black Box Award for Cross-Genre Performance for "IN HER DREAMS."

Collaborative Team: Dancers, Designers, and Musicians

Dancers

Becky Robinson-Leviton graduated from CSULB with a BA in Dance, and performs and choreographs throughout the Bay Area. She's performed as Clarice in *West Side Story* at Berkeley Playhouse, toured internationally with Tim Rubel Human Shakes, and is the founder and co-artistic director of the dance/clown duo, The Phenomenal Anomalies with Hannah Westbrook. Becky has been dancing with Lizz Roman & Dancers since 2017, performing in the original *Sunset Dances* (Izzie award-winning) and *Moments, Memories, and Amazing Grace* at Animate Dance Festival. For more info on Becky's ventures, check out phenomenal-anomalies.org

Chris Black has been choreographing and performing in San Francisco since 1992 and working with Lizz Roman off and on ever since. She has won an Isadora Duncan Award and two BATCC Awards for her choreography. She has been in residence at ODC Theatre, the Djerassi Resident Artists Program and the California Academy of Sciences. She is currently incubating The Murmurations Project, an impossible, decades-long project about artistic transmission, place history, and chaos theory.

Clarissa K. Ko has worked with Lizz Roman as her Company Manger since 2016. Clarissa is thrilled to be performing with Lizz Roman & Dancers for the first time. Clarissa graduated with a BA in Performing Arts and Social Justice (Dance), with a minor in Health Studies, from the University of San Francisco and has a MEd Learning Design and Technology from Purdue University. Through her dance company, [Five Feet Dance](http://FiveFeetDance.com), she has presented work at CounterPulse, Little Boxes Theater, SAFEhouse for the Arts, and The Asian Art Museum.

Colin Epstein is a dancer, acrobat, clown, and wears many other hats at various times. He is frequently seen on stage with 13th Floor, Tara Pilbrow Dance, and directing Twisted Oak Dance Theater; and is absolutely delighted every time he gets to dance with Lizz Roman & Dancers.

Gizeh Muniz, Mexican artist and pedagogue educator, believes that creation through the body is the best path to generate consciousness and empathy in the world. She has performed as a dancer and creative collaborator with Sara Shelton Mann, Kathleen Hermesdorf and Lizz Roman & Dancers Company in San Francisco, CA; Silla Danza and Teatro de León in Baja

California; Ocho Proyecto Gato in Mexico City as well as personal projects with tours in Mexico, United States, Europe and Central America. She also has collaborated with various organizations of social impact in Mexico and in the United States.

Jamie Nakama's diverse movement background includes training in modern, butoh, hula, aerial dance, Afro-modern, and capoeira. She has performed with numerous artists in Hawaii over the past 20 years, including IONA Contemporary Dance Theater, Tau Dance Theater, Wai Company, Samadhi Hawaii, and Kealoha (slam poet). This is her third project with Lizz Roman & Dancers. Besides her love of dance, Jamie has been dedicated to the field of environmental education for nearly 2 decades in Hawaii and continues the work as Youth Initiative Manager at LandPaths in Sonoma County. She also teaches anthropology at Diablo Valley College and is a yoga instructor in her spare time!

Jenny McAllister is a movement artist, actor, and director/choreographer. She is the Artistic Director of 13th Floor, and also performs with Epiphany Dance Theater, Twisted Oak, and Deborah Slater Dance Theater. She loves to explore the places where dance and theater intersect, and also doing site specific work. This is her 4th show with Lizz Roman and Dancers.

For **Sonya Smith**, creating with Lizz Roman and Dancers is a delicious space to investigate the joy of intelligently physical dancing, unusual ways to get off the ground, and inspiring collaborators. Smith treasures her past opportunities to study and perform, including stints with Zaccho Dance Theatre, Flyaway Productions, BANDALOOOP, Sara Shelton Mann, Michelle Ellsworth, Dance Brigade and Gesel Mason. She teaches an eclectic mix of bungee dancing, Pilates and GYROKINESIS around the bay and beyond.

Musicians

Jerome Lindner (*Musician/Composer*), is a San Francisco Native. Jerome began playing guitar at 13 years old. Soon after, he began to accompany Lizz Roman's dance classes throughout the city. He then went on to compose and perform for Lizz Roman & Dancers, where he won his first Izzy. In 2014 he graduated From Ex'pression College with a Bachelor's Degree of Applied Science. Over the past 7 years Jerome has also been composing, recording and arranging music for San Jose recording artist Andrew Bigs. The two are currently working on their 2nd studio album as well as 2 side projects. The two are planning to release new music this fall and throughout 2020.

Malcolm Lee (*Percussionist*) is a San Jose based music producer, engineer, MC and drummer. He has drummed with San Jose's Akoma Arts for 5 plus years, Studied Afro-Brazilian rhythms and movement with Capoeira Irmandade for 7 plus years, and has operated recording studios for 10 years. Malcolm's drumming style is rooted in the traditional West African, Afro-Cuban and African American rhythms of the 60's. Malcolm is also a respected teacher in the community hosting many youth classes for drumming, and music production and recording all throughout the Bay Area. Malcolm currently runs the Roosevelt Community Center Music studio for youth, as well as his own Wholesounds studios both in downtown San Jose. Malcolm's music can be found on all major platforms or with a google search of MalcolmLeeMusic.

Tamsin Black (*Vocalist*) is a student at Mission High School. She has trained at the Bandalooop studio and the Zaccho Center. She was a collaborating performer in Chris Black's *Phantom*, *Shadow*, *Specter*, *Wraith*.

Designers

Clyde Sheets (*Lighting Designer*) is theater educator and designer. He has designed works for Theatre, Ballet, Opera, and Contemporary Dance over the past 25 years in the SF Bay Area and the mid west. Clyde began working with Lizz Roman & Dancers in 2000 on their work 81/2 X 11 at ODC Theater. This began a run of designing the next 6 shows for Lizz, also doing music for 4 shows (with Alex Kelly and later Jerome Linder). These shows earned critical acclaim, an

Izzy Award for the company and a place for CS in the Prague Quadrennial in 2011 for the lighting design of the 2006 show *Blue Floor Reflections*. Clyde designed the companies work *Sunset Dances* in 2017. Other work by CS includes *Boys in Trouble* and *The Missing Generation* for San Francisco's Sean Dorsey Dance Company both of which won Isadora Duncan Company Performance awards in 2015 and 2019. Clyde received Isadora Duncan Dance Awards for Deborah Slater's *Hotel of Memories* at CounterPulse in S. F. and a Bay Area Circle Critics Dramatic Production award for *Metamorphosis* at Aurora Theater in Berkeley CA. in 2011 and in 2012 for Shotgun Theaters production of *Woyzeck*, both directed by Mark Jackson. As an educator CS has taught dance lighting /collaborative process at Mills College in Oakland California, Grand Valley State University and Interlochen Arts Academy and was the Production Manager for the Theater Arts at San Francisco State University, where he earned an MFA in Design in 2010. Clyde is now the Director of Comparative Arts, an interdisciplinary arts program, at Interlochen Arts Academy.

Pete Litwinowicz (*Filmmaker*) is a choreographer and filmmaker who concentrates on combining both disciplines. Pete co-owns RE:Vision Effects, Inc, a visual effects software company, and works as visual effects software developer and artist for the motion picture and video industries. Pete has won several awards including an Academy Award®; an Ars Electronica Golden Nica (Austria); and an Imagina Award (Monaco) for Best Visual Effects and Visual Innovation. Pete worked as co-artistic director of Dance Continuum SF from 2007-2012, and danced for Company Chaddick from 1996-2006. Pete has also served on the faculty at San Francisco Dance Center and at Western Ballet, among several other schools.

###

CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

For three weekends this September from September 6 To 22, Lizz Roman & Dancers perform their latest architectural romp, "SUNSET DANCES II". The award winning Roman's unique choreographic style has established her as one of California's leading site choreographers. This sequel to her award winning SUNSET DANCES: Architectural Meditations II (2017) is performed in multiple locations simultaneously with viewers at each location migrating throughout the home performance environment.

Lizz Roman & Dancers

"Sunset Dances II"

Featuring Dancers - Chris Black, Colin Epstein, Clarissa Ko, Jenny McAllister, Gizeh Muniz, Jamie Nakama, Becky Robinson-Leviton and Sonya Smith.

Filmmaker Pete Litwinowicz, lighting designer Clyde Sheets, musician/composer Jerome Lindner, percussionist Malcolm Lee and vocalist Tamsin Black performing an original live score

September 6 To 22, 2019

Friday, Saturday and Sunday @ 8:30pm

Home Salon Performances

Tickets available online, in advance, only. [Click here to purchase](#) on Eventbrite.

(30)