



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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Flyaway Productions & Dancers' Group/ONSITE present the world premiere of
NIAGARA FALLING

**Choreographer Jo Kreiter & video artists David and Hi-Jin Hodge take
on a street, two towns, and a nation falling and rising in this visually
arresting aerial dance set on the west wall of the Renoir Hotel**

September 26-29, 2012



SAM Luckey in *Niagara Falling*. Photo by Kitfox Valentin/Rapt Productions.

West wall of the Renoir Hotel
7th Street @ Market, San Francisco
flyawayproductions.com

*"Niagara Falling is an artistic response to the economic degradation
of our current recession." – Jo Kreiter*

*"To stand at the very edge of Niagara Falls is to feel the water's
primal pull. There, where the roaring river drops away at your feet,
you can partake in an ageless miracle." – David Hodge*

*"The opposite of poverty is not wealth; the opposite
of poverty is justice." – Civil Rights Attorney Bryan Stevenson*

SAN FRANCISCO, CA – July 20, 2012 – Flyaway Productions and Dancers' Group/ONSITE are proud to announce the world premiere of *Niagara Falling*, a visually arresting aerial dance and multimedia event jointly designed by choreographer **Jo Kreiter** and video artists **David** and **Hi-Jin Hodge** with composers **Carla Kihlstedt** and **Matthias Bossi**. Performed September 26 - 29, 2012, on the west wall of the Renoir Hotel in San Francisco, this free, 30-minute, site-specific performance juxtaposes images of what is

thriving and what is collapsing in the urban landscape, with a view toward inspiring audiences to imagine possibilities for civic regeneration.

Niagara Falling layers filmed images of the cities of San Francisco and Niagara Falls with live dancers suspended in life jackets and a steel life boat. Industrial chain hoists haul the dancers up the side of the Renoir Hotel to swim against the force of the Falls and the Pacific Ocean's massive swells. Drawing parallels between San Francisco and the city of Niagara Falls, *Niagara Falling* depicts the human faces affected by the fracturing American dream.

"San Francisco is a city steeped in contradictions and a widening income gap between rich and poor," says Flyaway Productions Artistic Director Jo Kreiter. "*Niagara Falling* is an effort to represent this reality through an artistic, interdisciplinary language. Likewise, the problems of video artist David Hodge's hometown of Niagara Falls – with its boarded-up houses and chemical seepage – are a microcosm of the urban decay that has infested our country on a national scale. Yet fifty years ago Niagara Falls was a thriving center of innovation and economic activity. *Niagara Falling* invites the Bay Area to reflect on what San Francisco might do to avoid the fate of Niagara Falls."

Niagara Falling represents a number of firsts for its director, Jo Kreiter. It is her first project using motorized hoists on the side of a building, and Rigging Designer **Karl Gillick** has designed a site-specific rigging plan for the Renoir Hotel's roof that will facilitate the use of chain hoists for the dancers; it is her first project collaborating with filmmakers; and it is her first project with a national context.

The artistic collaboration behind *Niagara Falling* also includes award-winning composers Carla Kihlstedt and Matthias Bossi. Their original sound score takes the form of an anthem sourced from in depth interviews recorded as research for the project. Some of these interviews were made possible with support from **Urban Solutions**, a SOMA-based economic development non-profit which has partnered with Flyaway Productions and Dancers' Group to expand on the themes of *Niagara Falling* that focus on San Francisco's central Market area including the Tenderloin neighborhood north of Market, and the 6th Street corridor to its south.

Through its ONSITE Project, Dancers' Group presents large-scale public performances that allow the organization to engage new audiences, to increase the visibility of local dance and dance artists, and to explode pre-conceived notions of what defines dance. *Niagara Falling* fulfills this mission with an aerial dance performed in the middle of one of the busiest intersections in San Francisco, amidst some of the most aggressive homeless populations in San Francisco, and presented free to anyone who wants to watch. Previous ONSITE projects have included *The Shifting Cornerstone* by Joanna Haigood and Zaccho Dance Theater; *Spirit of Place* by Anna Halprin; *Hit & Run Hula* by Patrick Makuākane and company, Nā Lei Hulu I Ka Wēkiu; *Intimate Visibility* by LEVYdance; and *Love Everywhere* by Erika Chong Shuch Performance Project.

The commissioning and production of the world premiere of Niagara Falling is made possible by the Wallace Alexander Gerbode Foundation and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation 2011 Choreographer Commissioning Awards Initiative along with the Kenneth Rainin Foundation, San Francisco Foundation, Hewlett Foundation, Grants for the Arts, The Kor Group and A Temporary Offering at the Renoir Hotel, and Flyaway's generous individual donors.

About Jo Kreiter (Artistic Director, Flyaway Productions)

Over the past 17 years, Jo Kreiter has gained increasing recognition in the Bay Area and on the national stage for the distinctive and captivating form of site-specific performance work she has developed for her company, Flyaway Productions. In her work, social justice intersects with acrobatic spectacle. Her company has performed on rooftops, fire escapes, a live billboard, an active construction site and a

bridge replica. Recent large-scale projects include dances for The Women's Building, celebrating its centennial; the Rincon Annex, to commemorate the funeral march for two workers shot and killed by police on July 5, 1934 (Bloody Thursday); and for the walls and roof of Sunnyside Elementary School, to bring attention to the funding crisis for public schools. Kreiter has received an Isadora Duncan Special Achievement Award, several NEA grants, a Rockefeller MAP Fund grant, Meet the Composer Award, a Creative Work Fund grant, Gerbode Foundation Award for Choreography, and a SF Bay Guardian GOLDIE Award. She is featured in the book *Site Dance*.

About David and Hi-Jin Hodge

Husband and wife, David and Hi-Jin Hodge have been creating commercial and fine art video installations for 13 years. Their pieces typically blend editorial materials and innovative uses of technology to explore complex human and social questions. Among their highly acclaimed works are *Impermanence: The Time of Man*, which traveled for six years to more than a dozen countries, and was the inspiration for a companion book with forward by the Dalai Lama; *Dreamland*, which has shown at the Swarm Gallery in Oakland and the Centre Pompidou in Paris; and *In the Memory of the Forest*, a collaboration with ODC/Dance. David and Hi-Jin Hodge's work can be found in the permanent collections of the Nobel Museum in Stockholm, Sweden; Loyola University Museum of Art in Chicago, IL; The Rhode Island School of Design Fine Arts Museum; and the UCLA Fowler Museum of Culture History in Los Angeles, CA. For more information visit davidandhijin.com.

About Carla Kihlstedt and Matthias Bossi

Composer, violinist, and vocalist Carla Kihlstedt is a member of several pioneering and iconic musical projects, including Sleepytime Gorilla Museum, Tin Hat, The Book of Knots, and 2 Foot Yard. A veteran of folk/pop, contemporary classical, improvised and experimental music, she has been commissioned to write music for the International Contemporary Ensemble, ROVA Saxophone Quartet, Bang on a Can All-Stars, and the Brecht Forum. Together with husband Matthias Bossi she has composed sound scores for dance-theater performers Joe Goode, Deborah Slater, inkBoat, and Jo Kreiter. Bossi is the drummer for Rock-Against-Rock pioneers Sleepytime Gorilla Museum, he was a member of NYC's Grammy-nominated Skeleton Key, and he was one of the founders of The Book of Knots. Kihlstedt and Bossi play in Fred Frith's band, Cosa Brava, and they release their own songs through their new subscription site, Rabbit Rabbit Radio. For more information visit carlakihlstedt.com and rabbitrabbitradio.com.

About The Kor Group and A Temporary Offering at the Renoir Hotel

Founded in 1999, The Kor Group is a fully-integrated real estate investment, development and management firm. Kor has been recognized in the industry as a leading innovator in the design and development of lifestyle properties. Its track record demonstrates its expertise in bringing new life to an investment, often through design coupled with extensive rehabilitation and repositioning. By fusing creative design with an agile investment and development discipline, Kor has amassed a portfolio of high performing assets and has built a signature brand translatable across its properties. Kor created A Temporary Offering (ATO) after purchasing the historic Renoir Hotel in early 2012. They immediately set out to engage the local community by exploring new ways to creatively activate the hotel's vacant and boarded up retail spaces, adding to the revitalization of the Mid-Market neighborhood. ATO's thoughtfully curated venues include a restaurant helmed by FoodLab featuring daily lunch service and a line-up of up-and-coming A-list chefs; Rio Grande, a bar created by renowned cocktail and spirits team The Bon Vivants; and Trailhead, the Luggage Store Gallery's satellite retail project bringing together coffee made with locally-roasted beans, a youth-initiated high-end denim boutique, a seedling farm outlet, and local artist-made ephemera—including books, zines, and hand-drawn trail maps of the Mid-Market neighborhood.

About Dancers' Group

Dancers' Group is a nationally recognized dance service organization for the country's second largest dance community. Its mission is to promote the visibility and viability of dance. Founded in 1982, the organization helps artists produce work, build audiences, and connect with peers and the greater community. Among DG's many programs are Dancers' Group Presents, featuring ONSITE and three other admission-free series that serve individual artists and small companies; *In Dance*, a comprehensive print publication and online communications system; and Bay Area Dance Week, an annual 10-day, region-wide, free festival of more than 600 dance events. In 2010, DG was named a Philanthropedia Top Nonprofit, based on its impact on the region's arts and culture sector. The organization is funded by, among others, the Irvine Foundation, Hewlett Foundation, NEA, Rainin Foundation, and most recently a Gerbode Foundation Choreographer Commissioning grant for its ONSITE program in 2013.

Calendar Editors, Please Note:

WHAT:

Flyaway Productions and Dancers Group/ONSITE present the world premiere of Jo Kreiter's aerial dance *Niagara Falling*.

Choreography and Direction by **Jo Kreiter**
Performance by **Flyaway Productions**
Film by **David & Hi-Jin Hodge**
Music by **Carla Kihlstedt & Matthias Bossi**
Lighting by **Matthew Antaky**
Rigging by **Karl Gillick**

WHEN:

Wed-Sat, September 26-29, 2012
8:30pm & 9:30pm each night

WHERE:

West wall of the Renoir Hotel
7th Street @ Market, San Francisco
Lawn chairs welcome!

TICKETS:

Free

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT:

dancersgroup.org

flyawayproductions.com