

Flyaway Productions announces the world premiere of

## **Give a Woman a Lift**

**Choreographer Jo Kreiter and designer Sean Riley explore “going up” from a feminist perspective in this visually arresting aerial dance**

Fri - Sat, November 8 - 9, 2013

Wed - Sat, November 13 - 16, 2013

*two shows each night*

Tickets: \$20/25



Pictured: Christine Cali. Photo by Nathan Weyland.

Joe Goode Annex  
401 Alabama Street, San Francisco

[flyawayproductions.com](http://flyawayproductions.com)

SAN FRANCISCO, CA, July #, 2013 – **Flyaway Productions** is proud to announce the world premiere of ***Give a Woman a Lift***, a visually arresting aerial dance created by choreographer **Jo Kreiter** and visual designer **Sean Riley**. In an exploration of the meanings inherent in the idea of “going up,” especially as seen through a feminist lens, *Give a Woman a Lift* affirms the necessity of rising on one’s own steam, rather than waiting for others to push or pull us up. *Give a Woman a Lift* opens Friday, November 8, 2013 at the Joe Goode Annex in San Francisco, and runs through Saturday, November 16.

In *Give a Woman a Lift* female self-determination is physicalized on multiple planes. Co-created by Kreiter and Riley, each taking part in the visual and movement design of the piece, *Lift* continues the duo’s long-standing experiment in the relationship of space, ascension and velocity. Invented scenic elements using repurposed steel and suspended, dynamic lighting support an articulate off-the-ground movement vocabulary.

“Riley remains an invaluable partner in collaboration,” says Kreiter. “But to the extent that he has created a design of moving lights – something I’ve never worked with before – light itself is a new creative partner on this project.”

After a 2012 CHIME residency with Elizabeth Streb, Kreiter was inspired to strip down her work to its core, physical elements. “*Lift* is, in many ways, a return to the formalist aesthetics that propelled me into dance when I started my company 18 years ago,” explains Kreiter. “My aim remains the same as it was then: to create a high water mark in innovation for off-the-ground movement. But that doesn’t mean *Lift* isn’t politically charged. I remain committed to a hard-core, dance-based exploration that affirms ascent for women. For me, it is a process that is embodied by the female body’s literal self-propelled upward dash. In *Lift*, I am challenging myself to return to this metaphor and still find new physical invention.”

Joining the creative team behind *Lift* is composer and vocalist **Jewlia Eisenberg**. Eisenberg’s original score for *Lift* will be the company’s 20th commissioned score for a female composer since its founding in 1996.

Returning company members **Jennifer Chien** and **Patricia Jiron** join new dancers **MaryStarr Hope**, **Lisa Fagan**, **Becca Dean** and **Christine Cali** in *Lift*.

*The world premiere of Give a Woman a Lift is made possible by the Rainin Foundation, Center for Cultural Innovation, Zellerbach Foundation, Grants for the Arts, and Flyaway’s generous individual donors.*

#### **About Jo Kreiter**

Over the past 18 years, Jo Kreiter has gained increasing recognition for the distinctive form of site-specific performance dance she has developed for her company, Flyaway Productions. Her work is created as an intersection of social justice and acrobatic spectacle, with specific attention to empowering women and girls. Flyaway has performed on fire escapes, a live billboard, an active construction site and a bridge replica. Recent projects include dances for 7<sup>th</sup> and Market St, giving a human face to urban decay and renewal, The Women's Building, celebrating its centennial; and the Rincon Annex, to commemorate the historic Bloody Thursday. Kreiter is the recipient an Isadora Duncan Special Achievement Award, numerous NEA grants, a Creative Work Fund Grant, MAP Fund grant, Meet the Composer Award, and two Gerbode Awards. She is featured in *Site Dance*, the first book about site-specific dance the United States.

#### **About Sean Riley**

Sean Riley has a 14-year career combining suspension, kinetic movement and performance. Through scenic design, rigging design, and lighting design, often in concert with each other, he creates unique performance environments. Concentrating his design on site-specific and experimental work, Riley creates scenic and lighting installations in collaboration with a spectrum of accomplished artists including Marc Bamuthi Joseph, ESP Project, Ethnic Dance Festival, Cirque Mechanics, Joanna Haigood, and Jo Kreiter. His lighting installation with Cuban artist Tañia Brugera was featured at Documenta 11. Designs for *Birdhouse Factory* and *Boomtown* completed successful runs on Broadway. Riley has been nominated for the Isadora Duncan Dance Award in visual design three times, with one win. He has developed an arsenal of specialized tools which make pushing the bounds of performance possible. Through constant refinement of technique, and by maintaining a strong presence as a leader within the specialized aerial community, Riley has earned a flawless safety record within this potentially dangerous field.

## About Flyaway Productions

Flyaway Productions is an apparatus-based dance company that explores the range and power of female physicality and advances social issues in the public realm. Founded in 1996 by Artistic Director Jo Kreiter, the company uses the artistry of spinning, flying, and exquisite suspension to engage political and social issues. Flyaway creates dances on both architectural and fabricated steel objects, typically off the ground, with dancers suspended anywhere from 2 feet to 100 feet above ground level. The company creates a sense of spectacle to make a lasting impression with an audience, striving for the right balance of awe, provocation, and daring. Flyaway has developed nationally recognized expertise in creating and presenting site-specific performance work. Since 1996, the company has presented or co-presented numerous large scale works including: *Mission Wall Dances*, *Copra Dock Dances*, *How to be a Citizen*, *The Live Billboard Project*, *Singing Praises*, *The Ballad of Polly Ann*, and *Niagara Falling*.

Flyaway's site-specific works are often free to the public, engaging a wide audience that otherwise might never attend a professional dance performance. Recent projects include dances for The Women's Building Centennial; the Rincon Annex, commemorating its labor history, for Sunnyside Elementary School, bringing attention to public school funding; and in *Niagara Falling* at 7th and Market Streets in San Francisco, giving a human face to urban decay and renewal. Our creative process often includes community interviews, curbside conversations following on-site rehearsals, and audience discussions after performances. Through our **KidFly** and **GirlFly Programs**, Flyaway also provides youth dance training that stimulates awareness of the physical body and of the social framework that undervalues women and girls. Finally, we offer a comprehensive teaching residency at Sunnyside Elementary school, teaching 250 children this 2012/13 academic year.

## FACT SHEET

### WHAT:

**Flyaway Productions** presents the world premiere of *Give a Woman a Lift*, an aerial dance co-created by **Jo Kreiter** and **Sean Riley**, with original music by **Jewlia Eisenberg**.

### WHEN:

Friday - Saturday, **November 8 - 9, 2013**

Wednesday - Saturday, **November 13 - 16, 2013**

**7:30pm & 9:00pm** each night

### WHERE:

**Joe Goode Annex**

401 Alabama St.

San Francisco, CA 94110

### TICKETS:

**\$20** in advance

**\$25** at the door

Tickets go on sale October 1, 2013, and may be purchased at [flyawayproductions.com](http://flyawayproductions.com).

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

[flyawayproductions.com](http://flyawayproductions.com)