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Flyaway Productions announces the world premiere of
Multiple Mary and Invisible Jane

Choreographer Jo Kreiter explores the experience of older homeless women in this visually arresting aerial dance set on an 80-foot wall in San Francisco's Tenderloin neighborhood

Sept 12 - 20, 2014
Tickets: FREE

UC Hastings College of the Law
333 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco

flyawayproductions.com

SAN FRANCISCO, CA, May 20, 2014 – The recent recipient of two Isadora Duncan Dance Awards, **Flyaway Productions** is proud to announce the world premiere of **Multiple Mary and Invisible Jane**, an aerial dance about the experience of older homeless women created by choreographer **Jo Kreiter** in collaboration with award-winning composer **Pamela Z** and journalist **Rose Aguilar**. *Multiple Mary and Invisible Jane* opens Friday, September 12, 2014 and runs through Saturday, September 20.

Multiple Mary and Invisible Jane offers a riveting portrait of the nature of housing security and how it eludes so many older women in San Francisco. The work aims not only to make visible the invisible “old ladies” who live on the street, but to nurture a connection between them and the available resources – including women’s shelters and family-based SROs – that the company’s community partner, **Episcopal Community Services**, has to offer.

The site of the performance is located at the edge of the Tenderloin and Civic Center neighborhoods, where the city’s extremes of privilege and deprivation crash into each other. **UC Hastings College of the Law**, an institution that for decades has supported a project focusing on the needs of homeless people



Pictured: Erin Mei-Ling Stuart. Photo credit: Austin Forbord/Rapt Productions.

terminated from General Assistance Welfare, has generously donated its wall at 333 Golden Gate Avenue to Flyaway's production.

The premiere of *Multiple Mary* represents the second in a trilogy of large-scale pieces created by Flyaway for performance in the Central Market area of San Francisco. Like *Niagara Falling*, the first in the series, *Multiple Mary* focuses on urban poverty. While *Niagara* offered a national perspective on the problem, *Multiple Mary* provides it a distinctly feminist lens.

The piece has its roots in "Old, Female, and Homeless," an article published in *The Nation* last year by Aguilar. Aguilar reports that the population of older homeless women has grown dramatically in the last 20 years. "It used to be that homeless women over 50 were blessedly rare," she writes. "Today, it's the norm."

With the help of Aguilar and Episcopal Community Services, Kreiter has gathered oral histories from women living on the streets of San Francisco, which she uses as source material in *Multiple Mary*. In tandem with the show's 12 performances, Flyaway will host a series of "curbside chats," bringing passersby into a conversation about homelessness. Participants in this series include Aguilar, the director of the General Assistance Advocacy Project supported by UC Hastings, as well as the women whose stories are featured in *Multiple Mary*. The curbside chats will take place in the two weeks leading up to the performances, as well as at post-performance receptions on the street.

"The arts have a unique capacity to raise awareness and build constituencies for social justice issues, and site-specific artworks are especially adept at meeting people where they are," says Kreiter. "At its core, Flyaway's work exposes the range and power of female physicality, and from there, reaches out to communities who are confronted in some way by injustice."

Composer Pamela Z and Kreiter have worked together off and on for nearly 20 years. Z's use of the human voice as an instrument marries perfectly with Kreiter's interest in giving voice to those without. The sound score will integrate the voices and stories of San Francisco's elder homeless women.

Multiple Mary runs for ten evenings, Friday to Saturday, September 12-13, and Thursday to Saturday, September 18 - 20. In addition, two noon performances will take place Wednesday and Thursday, September 17 - 18. All performances are free.

Performers in *Multiple Mary* form a multi-generational ensemble including **Becca Dean, Laura Elaine Ellis, MaryStarr Hope, Erin Mei-Ling Stuart, Alayna Stroud** and **Esther Wrobel**.

The world premiere of Multiple Mary and Invisible Jane is made possible by The National Endowment for the Arts, Grants for the Arts, The Lighting Arts and Dance Award promoted by the California Arts Council, Dancers' Group, the Zellerbach Foundation, The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, The Kenneth Rainin Foundation and Flyaway's generous individual donors.

About Jo Kreiter

Jo Kreiter is a choreographer with a background in political science. Through dance she engages imagination, physical innovation and the political conflicts we live within. Her lineage includes gymnastics, Chinese pole acrobatics and 14 years as a principal dancer with Joanna Haigood. Kreiter/Flyaway is the recipient of two 2014 Isadora Duncan Dance awards, of a 2013 Center for Cultural Innovation Award, an Artist Investigator Award from Cal Shakespeare, a 2012 Gerbode Award, a 2012 CHIME Across Borders grant with Elizabeth Streb, and grants from the Creative Work Fund and the MAP Fund. Her articles have been published in *Contact Quarterly*, *In Dance*, *STREET ART San Francisco* and *Site Dance*—the first book written on contemporary site-specific performance.

About Pamela Z

Pamela Z is a San Francisco-based composer/performer and media artist who works primarily with voice, electronic processing, sampling and video. A pioneer of live digital looping techniques, she creates solo works combining experimental extended vocal techniques, operatic bel canto, found objects, text, digital processing, and MIDI controllers that allow her to manipulate sound with gesture. Her work has been presented at Theater Artaud, ODC and The Kitchen in NY; her media works have been presented at the Whitney Museum in New York and the Diözesanmuseum in Cologne, Germany. She is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, and awards from Creative Capital, CalArts Alpert and the MAP Fund.

About Rose Aguilar

Rose Aguilar is a nationally recognized journalist. She hosts *Your Call*, a daily call-in radio show on KALW in San Francisco, focusing on politics, social issues and the arts. Aguilar also contributes op-eds to *Al Jazeera English* and has written for *The Nation*, *Truthout* and *AlterNet*. She is founder of the "Use Your Voice" workshop series, which aims to empower women in their personal and professional lives. Aguilar is author of *Red Highways: A Journey Into the Heartland* and is currently working on a book about older women who have dedicated their lives to social justice issues. She grew up in California and is a first-generation college graduate.

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 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; 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. Through its **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, the company offers a comprehensive teaching residency at Sunnyside Elementary school, teaching approximately 250 children each year.

FACT SHEET

WHAT:

Flyaway Productions presents the world premiere of *Multiple Mary and Invisible Jane*. Award-winning choreographer **Jo Kreiter** explores the experience of older homeless women in this visually arresting aerial dance mounted on an 80-foot wall in San Francisco's Tenderloin neighborhood.

WHEN:

September 12 - 20, 2014

Friday - Saturday, Sept. 12 - 13 @ **8pm** and **9pm**

Wednesday - Thursday, Sept. 17 - 18 @ **noon** and **8pm**

Friday - Saturday, Sept. 19 - 20 @ **8pm** and **9pm**

The show runs 30 minutes.

WHERE:

UC Hastings College of the Law

333 Golden Gate Avenue

San Francisco, CA 94110

TICKETS:

FREE

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

flyawayproductions.com