

**THE EISEMANN CENTER IN PARTNERSHIP WITH UT DALLAS
PRESENTS LILY CAI CHINESE DANCE COMPANY FOR
ONE PERFORMANCE ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2009 AT 8 PM**

RICHARDSON, TX – Elegant, sensual, and captivating, the **Lily Cai Chinese Dance Company** melds ancient Chinese forms with modern dance in an artistic and inventive marriage of styles. The Company bridges the continuum from past to contemporary — from the spectacular court dances of Chinese dynasties to contemporary works fusing classical Chinese movement and ballet, complemented by dazzling costumes, original music, and multi-media designs. Established in 1988 by **Lily Cai**, the Company performs and tours extensively throughout California and the United States, appearing at performing arts venues, festivals, university theaters, schools, community centers, and special events. On Saturday, February 7, 2009 at 8:00 PM, **Lily Cai Chinese Dance Company** will perform the concert program *Dynasties and Beyond*, continuing the **Hill Performance Hall Spotlight Series**.

In 1994, the Company opened the Grateful Dead concert celebrating the year of the Dog at the Oakland Coliseum, and in 1995, performed for United Nations' 50th Anniversary Celebration in San Francisco. In 1996, the Company received two coveted awards for Outstanding Achievement in Choreography and Company Performance Awards from the Isadora Duncan Dance Awards Committee for the collaborative performance with Oakland's Dimensions Dance Theater entitled *Common Ground*. Through increasingly contemporary and artistically intimate works such as *Candelas* (1997) with lit candles, *Southern Girl* (1998) with the Alexander String Quartet (seen at the Eisemann Center in April 2007), *Detours: Common Ground II* (1999) with Dimensions Dance Theater, and *Strings Calligraphy* (2000) with the New Century Chamber Orchestra, the Company performs concerts that highlight **Cai's** signature technique and the professional artistry of each dancer. In 2008, the **Lily Cai Chinese Dance Company** celebrated its 20th Anniversary, with the premiere of a new 5-movement work *The Mist Beneath*.

Lily Cai, Artistic Director & Choreographer is a native of Shanghai and former principal dancer with the Shanghai Opera House Dance Troupe, **Lily Cai** is a prominent member of the San Francisco Bay Area's dance community. Since arriving in California in 1983, Lily has choreographed dozens of new works and expanded traditional Chinese dance forms into contemporary choreographic and theatrical settings. Today, **Lily Cai** is considered a major authority and resource in Chinese dance. Founder and Artistic Director of the **Lily Cai Chinese Dance Company** and the co-founder of Chinese Cultural Productions, Lily derives her strengths as a choreographer from her ability to combine and integrate Chinese traditional, folk, and classical dance with Western ballet and American modern dance.

As a soloist, **Lily Cai** has performed and toured extensively in the United States and Europe. A 2000 Irvine Fellow in Dance, a three-year Choreographer's Fellowship recipient from the National Endowment for the Arts and a nine-year recipient of the Artist-in-Residence Program grant from the California Arts Council, **Cai** has won commissioning project awards from the California Dance Educators Association Artist Heritage Award, the Asian American Arts Foundation's Sandra Sakata Memorial Award, the Bay Area Fund for Dance, San Francisco Arts Commission, Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Council, Rockefeller Foundation's Multi-Arts Production Fund, and the Walter & Elise Haas Fund/Creative Work Fund. In 2003, **Lily Cai** received two commissions: one to create a new work, *Si Ji*, for the 25th anniversary of the San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival, and one from the Santa Fe Opera to choreograph the dance numbers in the world premiere of the opera, *Madame Mao*. In July 2005, **Lily Cai**

- More -

Page 2 – Lily Cai Chinese Dance Company

was awarded the Dance: Creation to Performance grant from Dance USA and The James Irvine Foundation for the creation of *Red Typhoon*, a new, evening-length work exploring the impact of the Cultural Revolution, 40 years ago, on the women of China. In 2009, **Lily Cai** will set her choreography on dancers at the Memphis Ballet and on students at the University of Texas at Dallas (UT Dallas).

The **Lily Cai Chinese Dance Company** production is supported by Mid-America Arts Alliance with generous underwriting by the National Endowment for the Arts, Texas Commission on the Arts, and foundations, corporations and individuals throughout Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Texas.

The performance on Saturday, February 7th at 8:00 pm continues the 2008-2009 season of **Eisemann Center Presents' Hill Performance Hall Spotlight Series**. Tickets range from \$27-\$55 and are available for purchase online at www.eisemanncenter.com or by calling the Eisemann Center Ticket Office at 972-744-4650 and group discounts are available.

A two-week residency February 1-13, 2009 is planned with **Lily Cai** at the University of Texas at Dallas (UT Dallas) in partnership with the School of Arts & Humanities as coordinated by dance instructors Michele Hanlon and Monica (Miki) Saba. **Ms. Cai** will set a work on the UT Dallas dance students to be performed at a workshop performance on Friday, February 13 at 7:30 pm at UT Dallas. In addition, **Cai** will conduct lectures for UT Dallas Arts & Humanities students, members of the Confucius Institute, Master Classes and outreach activities with local schools. For information about the many musical, arts, theatre, dance and other performances and exhibitions held throughout the year at UT Dallas, please call 972-UTD-ARTS (972-883-2787), e-mail utdarts@utdallas.edu, or visit the School of Arts and Humanities' Web site at <http://ah.utdallas.edu/>. Persons with disabilities needing special accommodations may call 972-883-2982, Texas Relay Operator: 1-800-RELAYVV.

About UT Dallas

The University of Texas at Dallas, located at the convergence of Richardson, Plano and Dallas in the heart of the complex of major multinational technology corporations known as the Telecom Corridor®, enrolls more than 14,500 students. The school's freshman class traditionally stands at the forefront of Texas state universities in terms of average SAT scores. The university offers a broad assortment of bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree programs. For additional information about UT Dallas, please visit the university's Web site at www.utdallas.edu.

The Charles W. Eisemann Center is located in the Galatyn Park Urban Center at 2351 Performance Drive in Richardson, Texas. Sponsors for the 2008-2009 Season include *The Dallas Morning News*, WFAA-TV and ticket sponsor PegasusNews.com. Radio sponsor for this event is WRR Classical 101.1 FM. For more information on this and other Eisemann Center event, visit www.eisemanncenter.com.

####