

November 1998

THE DANCE Our choreographers has become as inspired in the unlikely combinations they bring together as our famous chefs. Dancers bounce, click, and swish their way across the city's stages to the beat of disco-hula, pomo-fairy-salsa, tango-butoh, and acrobo-yoga. Such hybrids may sound unappealing, but in the right hands, they can be as inexplicably delicious as green tea ice cream. Our troupe that succeeds with odd mixtures is the Lily Cai Chinese Dance Company. Cai's semiabstract, sculptural, and theatrical spectacles blend her lyrical version of American modern dance with the Chinese folk dance and ballet she performed for several years as principal dancer with Shanghai Opera. This month, the award-winning Alexander String Quartet joins Cai's company of seven young Chinese American women for *Begin from Here*, inspired by Chinese ribbon dancing; *Candelas*, a dance of geometric design performed with lit candles in the dancer's hands; and a new dance about, Cai says, "a quite heroine making beauty," performed to an original score by acclaimed local composer Gang Situ that infuses Chinese folk melodies with Western classicism. NOV. 6-7, YERBA BUENA CENTER THEATRE, 701 MISSION ST., S.F. (415)978-2787.