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### Lily Cai Dance Company to perform “Silk Cascade”



The Ordway Center for the Performing Arts is proud to present its new dance series. Ordway audiences will be treated to the very best in dance performance, including Lily Cai Chinese Dance Company, Garth Fagan Dance, and Stomp. Dance enthusiasts and new fans will enjoy this exciting, culture-centric series in the comfort of Ordway Center’s beautiful Main Hall.

The Lily Cai Dance Company will perform “Silk Cascade” on Friday, October 26 at 7:30 p.m. at Ordway Center for the Performing Arts, 345 Washington Avenue, Saint Paul.

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 spectacular court dances of Chinese dynasties to contemporary works fusing classical Chinese and ballet, complemented by dazzling costumes, original music, and multi-media designs.

Silk Cascade is inspired by the action paintings of Jackson Pollock. It is Lily Cai’s revolutionary take on traditional Chinese ribbon dancing, where the stage is layered with movements and vivid colors of nearly 200 ribbons, and the dancers’ movements merge with a real time video camera to make active paintings that leap, loop, curl, layer and streak.

Established in 1988 by Lily Cai, the Company performs and tours extensively. In 1996, the Company premiered with “Chinese Myths Cantata”, a successful collaboration with The Women’s Philharmonic and Chanticleer. The Company has grown and

developed and increasingly contemporary and artistically intimate number of works and collaborations.

Artistic Director Lily Cai is a native of Shanghai and former principal dancer with the Shanghai Opera House. Since arriving to California in 1983, Lily has choreographed dozens of new works and expanded traditional Chinese dance forms into contemporary choreographic and theatrical settings. She is a prominent member of the Bay Area's dance community.

Lily's strengths as a choreographer derive mainly from her ability to combine and integrate Chinese traditional, folk and classical dance, Western ballet and American modern dance. As a soloist, Lily Cai has performed and toured extensively in the United States and the Europe. She is considered a major authority and resource in Chinese dance.

Garth Fagan Dance will perform on Friday, February 8, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. Awarded the prestigious 1998 Tony Award® for Best Choreography for *The Lion King*, Garth Fagan's singular dance language draws on many sources: the sense of weight in the modern dance, the torso-centered movement and energy of Afro-Caribbean dance, the speed and precision of ballet, and the rule breaking experimentation of the post-moderns.

The Fagan company has been cited for its excellence and originality with a New York Governor's Arts Award. The company has had five winners of "Bessie" Awards (New York Performance Awards) in its ranks: Garth Fagan, Norwood Pennewell, Steve Humphrey, Natalie Rogers and Sharon Skepple.

"Stomp" will be at Ordway Center June 10-15, 2008. Stomp is a movement of bodies, objects, sound – even abstract ideas. Rhythmically gifted, extremely coordinated performers with definitive personalities form the phenomenon known as Stomp.

Call the Box Officer at 651-224-4222 or visit online at [www.ordway.org](http://www.ordway.org).

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