

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Lisa Townsend Company

in association with **Joyce SoHo** presents the New York Premiere of:

Virile Streak

October 27 & 28, 2006 - Friday & Saturday @ 8:00pm

Joyce SoHo 155 Mercer St. between Houston & Prince

General \$15.00 / Students & Seniors \$12.00

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Friday Oct. 27 Post-Performance Discussion with the Company

Lisa Townsend Company returns to Joyce SoHo to premiere ***Virile Streak***, an evening of dance laced with dominance, submission and erotic intensity. Inspired by the bond between Renée-Pélagie de Sade and her husband, the notorious Marquis de Sade, and stripped of formal excess, the Townsend Company divulges through unreservedly intimate body vocabulary, the Sade *motif* and its duality of aggression and tenderness. Exposing the bondage of partnership and the gift of vulnerability, ***Virile Streak*** explores the madness of desire and the delight of love and evil in the limitless presumption of appetite.

Virile Streak features original music composed and performed live by collaborators Piro Patton (upright bass) and Michael Bello (saxophone) in addition to pre-recorded elements designed by Christian Konopka. The evening includes costume and set design by Heidi Sandvoll and lighting design by José-Maria Francos. Dancers Patric Cashman, Julie Sheetz, Damara Ganley, Phil Halbert, Ami Student, and Suzanne Lappas join Lisa Townsend in performance.

Also on the evening, ***the short straw***, a bittersweet trio about the transient nature of love, and **guest choreographer Keely Garfield** will show an excerpt from a new work in progress. Keely Garfield choreographs poetically subversive dance sagas that illustrate subtle and seismic shifts in emotional and physical states. *"Blessed with a vivid imagination and an unforced, effective understanding of what constitutes good theater, Garfield is simply one of the finest storytellers working in contemporary dance today."* (Gia Kourlas, *Time Out NY*) Lighting designed by Julie Ana Dobo.

"Lisa Townsend's choreography always embodies structure, originality and freshness... With music composed by Piro Patton, the dancers moved with speed, purpose and agility, and Townsend's sense of choreographic maturity was the highlight of the night."
(Becca Hirschman, *Ballet-Dance Magazine*, 2006)

Lisa Townsend is the Artistic Director/Choreographer of Lisa Townsend Company, a San Francisco based dance company. She has also lived and worked as a choreographer in Los Angeles, New York City, and France. Her work has been presented in NYC (Movement Research at the Judson Church, Joyce SoHo, Dixon Place, St. Marks Church-in-the-Bowery, P.S. 122, NYC's Annual dancenowfest, New Dance Alliance, Inc.'s Performance Mix, the American Dance Guild), in Los Angeles (Los Angeles Theater Center, Los Angeles Women's Theater Festival, Los

Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions (L.A.C.E.)), in France (La Chalibaude Festival), and in San Francisco (Dance Mission Theater, Venue 9, ODC Theater, and Theater Artaud). Ms. Townsend has co-produced evenings of dance at L.A.C.E. and the Downtown Playhouse in Los Angeles, the Center Stage Theater in Santa Barbara, and Joyce SoHo in NYC.

In 1994 Lisa graduated with her MFA degree in Dance from California Institute of the Arts. She has been inspired by her work and studies with Keely Garfield, Jeremy Nelson, Guta Hedewig, David Dorfman, Donna Uchizono, and Joe Goode. As a performer Lisa Townsend has been described as moving "...with preternatural intensity..." (Ann Murphy *Dance View Times* 2006), and as a choreographer whose "...movement vocabulary depicts the complicated and highly fluid state of the relationships that define the human condition." (Lisa Wallgren, *InDance* 2005)

Currently Ms. Townsend is a resident artist with her company at ODC Theater in San Francisco. This Residency Program is a comprehensive, three-year program including presentation, development, and advocacy subsidies for emerging and mid-career artists of the San Francisco Bay Area. In May 2006 Ms. Townsend first co-presented *Virile Streak* at ODC Theater as part of this residency.

For more information about Lisa Townsend Company - www.lisatownsend.com

For more information about Keely Garfield - www.keelygarfield.org

***Virile Streak* presented by Lisa Townsend Company in association with Joyce SoHo
Friday & Saturday, October 27 & 28, 2006 at 8:00pm
Performances are at Joyce SoHo located at 155 Mercer St. between Houston & Prince.
Tickets are \$15 general and \$12 students & seniors.
Reservations can be made over the phone at: 212-334-7479.
On Friday Oct. 27 there will be a post performance discussion with the company.**



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