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**PERFORMANCE ARTIST LIZ MAGIC LASER
TO STAGE CLASSIC MOTION PICTURE CHASE SCENES
IN TIMES SQUARE**

Times Square Alliance President Tim Tompkins today announced that performance artist Liz Magic Laser has been selected to present her work at the Crossroads of the World this May as part of Time Square Arts, the Alliance's ongoing commitment to bring the best of contemporary art to Times Square.

Laser's project *Flight* -- a sequence of live chase scenes from classic motion pictures -- will be staged at Duffy Square in Times Square, between 46th and 47th Street, on Tuesday, May 3 and Friday-Saturday, May 6-7.

Flight, features actors Nic Grelli, Elizabeth Hodur, Liz Micek, Michael Wiener, Lia Woertendyke and Max Woertendyke, performing chase scenes from films such as *Battleship Potemkin*, *M*, *Niagara*, *American Psycho* and *28 Days Later*. The performance presents a series of fast-paced slippages where villains become victims and witnesses become perpetrators. Laser choreographs these scenes so that the pursuer in one scene becomes the pursued in the next.

"We're thrilled that critically-acclaimed artist Liz Magic Laser has agreed to participate in Times Square Arts to enhance the Times Square experience for visitors and New Yorkers," said Tompkins. "Sharing *Flight* with the more than half-a-million people who come through this distinctive and dynamic destination on a daily basis is an unparalleled opportunity for artists."

Laser said, "In *Flight* performers embody the historical arc of the staircase in cinema as it has shifted from an arena of revolutionary struggle in *Battleship Potemkin* to the site of private trauma in films like *The Shining*."

Performances of *Flight* will take place on the following dates:

Tuesday, May 3 (two performances) Noon and 1 pm. (press previews)
Friday, May 6 (three performances) 7 p.m., 8 p.m. and 9 p.m.
Saturday, May 7 (four performances) 1 p.m., 2 p.m., 8 p.m. and 9 p.m.

Laser is a 2011 Smack Mellon Artist Studio Program resident and a graduate of The Whitney Museum Independent Study Program and Columbia University's MFA program. Her work has been featured at the Prague Biennale 4 and Greater New York 2010 at MoMA PS1. She is represented by Derek Eller Gallery. In 2011, Laser will produce a project for the Performa Biennial.

Christopher Y. Lew, Assistant Curator at MoMA PS1, organized the first presentation of *Flight* for MoMA PS1's courtyard staircase in April 2010 and continues to serve as curatorial advisor on the project. Laser developed *Flight* with the collaboration of performers, as well as fight choreographer Miranda Hennem, production assistant Mia Tramz and costume stylist Zuzka Kurtz. The project will include the creation of a video made with Producer David Guinan, Director of Photography Collin Kornfiend and camera operator Eric Yoon of Polemic Media LLC.

Times Square Arts presents temporary cutting-edge art and performances in multiple forms and media to the 360,000 to 500,000 daily visitors to New York City's Times Square, making it one of the highest profile public arts programs in the United States. Since its inception, Times Square Arts has featured works by a diverse group of more than four dozen prominent and emerging artists. It is supported by the Rockefeller Foundation's NYC Cultural Innovation Fund and the Rockefeller Brothers Fund.

Recent projects of the Times Square Arts program include Shen Wei Dance Arts, *RE-(III) thru out NYC*, a series of public performances in Times Square and other iconic locations in New York City, the 2011 Times Square Valentine – *LightHearted* by Freecell, a participatory art piece held up by nearly 3,000 New Yorkers over two weeks, and the Armory Show which featured three sculptures on the Broadway Plazas, including *Counting Sheep* by Kyu Seok Oh, comprised of 24 handmade, life-sized, paper sheep.

This performance was made possible, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council. Major support of the Franklin Furnace Fund was provided in 2010-11 by the Lambent Foundation Fund of Tides Foundation and Jerome Foundation.



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