

PRESS RELEASE: SHARP & FINE

Contact: Megan Kurashige

megan@sharpandfine.com

650-759-0099

SHARP & FINE ANNOUNCES THE WORLD PREMIERE OF

YOUR SISTER TURNS INTO A LION

an evening-length story about two sisters and what happens when one turns into a lion. Told with dance, live music, original text, and an opera singer.



December 7-9, 2017

ODC Theater, San Francisco

Tickets: \$15-\$25

San Francisco, September 19, 2017—San Francisco-based dance company **Sharp & Fine**, directed by sisters **Megan and Shannon Kurashige**, announces ***Your Sister Turns Into a Lion***, an evening-length narrative dance piece about two sisters and what happens when one of them turns into a lion. Built on spoken text devised by the cast, the show is a hybrid of real memories and surreal fiction, a story told in acrobatic phone calls to next of kin, an interrogation presided over by a conductor, the unabashed savagery of beasts, and the tender folding of maps. Created in collaboration with Oakland-based composer **Jordan Glenn** and featuring five dancers, four musicians, and a classically trained vocalist, *Your Sister Turns Into a Lion* premieres **December 7-9, 2017 at ODC Theater in San Francisco**.

Choreographed and directed by the Kurashiges, *Your Sister Turns Into a Lion* comes out of a year-long process of devising the script and story with the cast to transform real,

remembered experiences into a fictional whole. All the dancers have sisters in real life (one of whom is the piece's vocalist) and that relationship's influence on identity has enough richness and weirdness to make the shift into fabulism just a tiny step away from reality. You will probably never say, "your sister turns into a lion," but it seems oddly easy to imagine how that transformation or desertion might feel.

Your Sister Turns Into a Lion builds on the Kurashiges' interest in telling stories and creating work in the tradition of devised theater with collaborators from various art forms. The dancers speak, act, and make noise while also relishing complex choreography that draws on classical ballet, structured improvisation, contemporary floor work, and earnest physical recklessness. Composer Jordan Glenn and vocalist Ina Woods occasionally invade the stage in a storm of butcher paper and Handel arias to become narrators and vaudeville clowns. The show uses these disparate elements to examine how change affects the way we see the people we are closest to and how difficult it sometimes is to see them clearly.

Your Sister Turns Into a Lion takes inspiration from Kelly Link short stories, Lynda Barry comics, and plays by Sarah Ruhl. Under the unavoidable specter of the current political climate, creating meaningful narrative—in movement, language, and music—particularly with the visceral metaphors of fantasy, feels like raising a voice against misdirection and callousness.

The dancers of Sharp & Fine are **Sonja Dale**, **Megan Kurashige**, **Shannon Kurashige**, **Chelsea Reichert**, and **Sarah Dionne Woods-LaDue**. Joining them are composer and performer **Jordan Glenn** (percussion), vocalist **Ina Woods**, and an ensemble of three musicians (in the process of being confirmed). Lighting design is by **Allen Willner** and costume design is by **Emily Kurashige**. *Your Sister Turns Into a Lion* is made possible in part by the San Francisco Conservatory of Dance, CA\$H, ODC Theater, the Rainin Opportunity Fund, and generous individual donors.

PHOTOGRAPHS:

High res and web ready available by request or online: www.sharpandfine.com/press

Photo credit: Shannon Kurashige

Pictured: Sarah Dionne Woods-LaDue (in brown), Chelsea Reichert (in green)

WHO:

Company: **Sharp & Fine**

Direction & Choreography: **Megan Kurashige & Shannon Kurashige**

Composer: **Jordan Glenn**

Dancers: **Sonja Dale**, **Megan Kurashige**, **Shannon Kurashige**, **Chelsea Reichert**, **Sarah Dionne Woods-LaDue**

Vocalist: **Ina Woods**

Musicians: Jordan Glenn (percussion) and ensemble

Lighting design: **Allen Willner**

Costume design: **Emily Kurashige**

WHEN:

December 7-9, 2017

Thursday-Saturday at 8pm

WHERE:

ODC Theater

3153 17th Street, San Francisco 94110

TICKETS:

\$15-\$25

\$15 early bird (purchase online by November 15)

\$20 in advance

\$25 at the door

Online: **sharpandfine.com/lion**

Phone: ODC Box Office, **415-863-9834**

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

sharpandfine.com/lion

For all press inquiries, please contact Megan Kurashige at megan@sharpandfine.com

ABOUT SHARP & FINE:

Sharp & Fine was founded in 2011 in San Francisco by sisters Megan and Shannon Kurashige to facilitate the creation of dance work inspired by both the rigor and technique of classical ballet and the human intensity of contemporary forms. S&F seeks to make the phenomenon of live performance a necessity and a pleasure, to entertain and provoke, to connect with audiences on an emotional level through work that is physically exacting and emotionally surprising. S&F collaborates with artists from a variety of disciplines, striving to create long-lasting relationships with other artistic communities, while exploring the power of theatrical narrative within the context of dance.

A company in residence at the San Francisco Conservatory of Dance, Sharp & Fine has premiered work at Z Space, ODC Theater, and the San Francisco Conservatory of Dance. Recent works have included a re-imagining of *Peter and the Wolf* for a mixed cast of dancers and musicians, with the musicians incorporated as active participants in the movement; an evening-length adaptation of “Queen of Knives” by internationally celebrated author Neil Gaiman; and collaborations with writer Kat Howard, playwright Amber Hsu, and opera singer Ina Woods.

Megan and Shannon are currently both members of Liss Fain Dance. They have previously worked with Alex Ketley (The Foundry), Christian Burns (burnsWORK), Amy Seiwert, Ballet Pacifica, and Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montreal. Megan is also a writer and her short fiction has appeared in various magazines and anthologies. Shannon is also an artist and graphic designer.

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