



Media Contact: (415) 621-3186 (not for publication)  
Brechin Flournoy, x104, [bfLOURNOY@quinn-assoc.com](mailto:bfLOURNOY@quinn-assoc.com)  
Karen Hall, x112, [khall@quinn-assoc.com](mailto:khall@quinn-assoc.com)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Takami & MoBu Dance Group presents**

**Illusion**

**A dance-art installation by Takami (choreography and direction)**

**Kana Tanaka (glass art/set design) and Jorge Bachmann (sound design)**

**February 9-11, 2007**

**Project Artaud Theater (San Francisco)**

*Detailed calendar on the last page*

(San Francisco, CA – January 17, 2007) **Takami & MoBu Dance Group** invites you to experience "**Illusion**," a veritable wonderland where luminous glass sculptures float in space while seeming to appear and disappear among dancers. For three days in February, Project Artaud Theater will be transformed into this magical realm by three distinctly different artists: **Takami** (choreography and direction), **Kana Tanaka** (glass art and set design), and **Jorge Bachmann** (sound design). These artists will unite glass, sound, and dance into a sensory theatrical exploration about the mystery of optical phenomena and the emotional power of illusions.

The word "illusion" has many interpretations, the first being a false idea or belief. Referring to its emotional context, "Illusion" invites the audience to question reality and the nature of truth. Takami explains, *"In our lives, what we hold to be the truth – that which we want to believe in our relationships and everyday life – often turns out to be based more in fantasy than reality...If we repeat it over and over, truth ceases to be an illusion, and in effect, becomes more real than truth itself. Indeed, illusion is often more comfortable and less frightening than reality."*

Building on these ideas – the nature of truth and the power of perception – Takami and her collaborators developed "Illusion" over a two-year span through a series of different productions. The predecessor of "Illusion" entitled "Shizuku-drop," explored the reflection of light through glass onto dancers in different environments.

more

The performance sites included an outdoor performance at Alamo Square Park (December 2004), Jon Sims Center for the Arts (April 2005), and a day-lit gallery at Project Artaud (March 2006). At each performance, hundreds of raindrops swayed over the dancers and audience covering the space and reflecting the light on stage.

Maritza Gueler wrote in Danzahoy that *"Takami has created a meticulous evolution of movement, in work extreme beauty and dramatic radiance. 'Shizuku-drop' is a beautiful accomplishment, meticulously elaborated to allow an aesthetic glimpse of the individual, within the context of modern dance butoh."*

The current production, "Illusion" takes the concepts of "Shizuku-drop" farther. Whereas in "Shizuku-drop," the raindrops of glass sculpture represented any and all aspects of life (drop of a tear, blood, memory, rain, desire); the glass sculptures in "Illusion" explore the transcendent qualities of light and optical phenomena.

Glass artist and set designer, **Kana Tanaka** describes her inspiration: *"When light leaves, the visible is obscured. When position changes, a previous view is gone. When not paying attention, a moment is missed."* The manipulation of glass, light, and architecture are at the heart of her installation – illuminated glass rods line a path and solid glass balls with internal light sources are suspended throughout the environment. Within this installation, Takami & MoBu Dance Group will move through the space defined by light and dark.

"Illusion" will also feature an original sound score by experimental sound artist Jorge Bachmann. A collaborator on "Shizuku-drop," Jorge collects sounds and creates one-of-kind sound scapes out of 'microcosmic' sounds.

**Takami** (Artistic Director of MoBu Dance Group and director of "Illusion") was born and raised in Japan. She received her BA in Modern Dance at Nihon University College of Art, and since 1985, has been performing her original work in both Japan and the United States. Since moving to San Francisco in 1991, Takami has collaborated with many Bay Area artists at venues throughout the region.

As co-founder and co-producer of the San Francisco Butoh Festival (1994-1999), she met Butoh pioneers Akira Kasai and Setsuko Yamada. Takami performed with Akira Kasai as part of the San Francisco Butoh Festival at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. Her exposure to Kasai and Yamada's pioneering concepts of dance changed the direction of Takami's artistic explorations. Since 1998, Takami has combined modern dance, which is her primary technical background, with Japanese butoh dances concepts of image, time, and space. The result is a technique that is distinctly different from its sources – the hybrid style of dance is called MoBu ("true dance" in Japanese). Takami produced several events with an early incarnation of MoBu Dance Group, called Toumei. Since founding the MoBu concepts, Takami has been invited to perform and teach MoBu workshops in Tokyo, Japan; Vanne, France; and Bangkok, Thailand.

Takami earned critical praise from Rita Felciano of the San Francisco Bay Guardian for her *"physical stamina, ability to stay focused, and effective use of repetitions evokes respect."*

Locally, Takami has opened her own dance studio in Noe Valley, called MoBu Dance Studio, home of "DancEsteem," a program for children and adults. In addition to her Bay Area activities, for the past 12 years Takami has been leading an exchange program for young dancers in the Bay Area and dancers in Numazu-city, Japan.

"Illusion" collaborator, **Kana Tanaka** is an installation artist who uses the medium of glass and light to challenge conventional ways of seeing the world. Tanaka was born and raised in Aichi, Japan. She discovered glass blowing while in school at the National Aichi University of Education in Japan, and developed her interest in site-specific installations while earning an MFA at Rhode Island School of Design (1996-1999). An artist grant from Pollock-Krasner Foundation in 2001 allowed her to set up a studio space on Mare Island, CA where she developed her new body of work. Supported by a grant from the POLA Art Foundation in Tokyo (2002), she accomplished many gallery installation exhibitions and several other collaborative projects. Two years later she was commissioned by the Solano County to complete a permanent public art installation of a large-scale suspended glass sculpture for the main entry lobby of the Solano County Government Center in Fairfield. Tanaka was nominated by the Isadora Duncan Committee (IZZIEs) for the 2006 production of "Shizuku-drop". Currently, Tanaka exhibits her work in art galleries and theatrical environments in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Experimental musician and sound artist, **Jorge Bachmann**, is a multi-media sound artist, who incorporates sculpture, photography, and collected sounds in his multi-sensory installations. Since the early 1980s, Bachmann has fed his aural obsession by collecting field recordings that explore the strange, unique, and microcosmic sounds that are the background of everyday life. From these recordings, Bachmann invents sound scapes for his sculptural installations that address the social and sensual constructs and experiences of our daily lives.

---

### **CALENDAR INFORMATION**

*High-res jpegs and interviews with the artists can be supplied by NEQA/PR, upon request.*

**WHO: Takami & MoBu Dance Group**

**WHAT: "Illusion"**

Direction and choreography by Takami; glass installation by Kana Tanaka;  
sound design by Jorge Bachmann

**DATES: February 9, 10, 11, 2007**

**TIME: Friday and Saturday at 8:00pm; Sunday at 7:00pm**

**VENUE: Project Artaud Theater (450 Florida Street @ Mariposa, San Francisco)**

**TICKETS: \$22 general; \$18 senior/student**

**BOX OFFICE: [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com)**

**INFORMATION: (415) 602-8557**

###