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PRESS INFORMATION

The Outmost White to Shanghai Dance Festival!

Efva Lilja – choreographer, professor and Vice-Chancellor at the University College of Dance in Stockholm – will be making a guest appearance at the international Shanghai Dance Festival 2007 with her piece The Outmost White on 22-23 September.

The Outmost White is a solo piece for the dancer Helene Karabuda which was created during Efva Lilja's research project The Art of Dance in a Frozen Landscape. As a part of this project, Efva spent seven weeks as a member of the polar expedition Arctic Ocean 2002 where she worked with movement studies on the ice just south of the North Pole. The result was presented in a film for Swedish public service broadcaster SVT, in a book and in this solo piece, which has earlier been performed on tours in Sweden and Russia. The original music of the performance is composed by Tommy Zwedberg, and light designer in China will be Mats Andreasson.

During the festival in Shanghai, Efva Lilja is also commissioned by the Swedish Institute to present Swedish dance film: Dance Screen Sweden, where she, among other films, will be showing her own film **Homeward Bound** from 2005. Homeward Bound has been shown in twelve countries and has won a number of awards, for example it was selected for the Best Film award at Il Coreografo Elettronico XIV Festival Internazionale di Videodanza in competition with 130 films from all over the world. The other films are signed by Jens Östberg, Pontus Lidberg, Virpi Pahkinen, Anna Vnuk, Gunilla Heilborn among others.

For further information info@efvalilja.se
Press photos are available at www.efvalilja.se/press/eng



The Outmost White

A dance from the top of the world

Exploring movement in a frozen landscape

Swedish choreographer Efva Lilja took part in an expedition arranged by The Swedish Polar Research Institute to The Arctic, April to June 2002. The performance **The Outmost White** is part of her research concerning the human body's movements in the frozen landscape.

"The Arctic has always had a strong attraction on me. A dream I haven't been able to unveil. In the deep frozen outmost white, there is constant but unnoticeable movement. The ice drifts, put in motion by the wind, cracks by the pressure of tide, gets coloured by every shifting light, or is drowned in the polar winter's absolute darkness. The meeting between me and the ice, my body and the snow, becomes in the performance the lonely human's encounter with her innermost."

Choreographer Efva Lilja

The work of choreographer Efva Lilja is invariably described as creative and original while maintaining a deep sense of rootedness in the culture of the Nordic countries. The view she takes of her work is a form of exploration of language at a fundamental level aimed at exploring the linguistic dimension of movement that we contribute to the communication that passes between us.

Within the course of her exploratory work, the attitude taken to the concept of time has shown itself to be a typical feature of Nordic culture. The further north we go, the slower and more restrained movement becomes. Gesture language while very finely shaded becomes a matter of intricate detail, the spoken word becomes sparse. We become increasingly quietly spoken and more patient. The climate is clearly a decisive factor. The cold forces us to hold the body tightly closed, not to let the warmth out. The darkness establishes a different rhythm and nature refuses to make things easy. What was it that made human beings continue northward nevertheless, to defy the cold and the dark? What is the relationship of our current lives to what went before?

Strong and stubborn men and women of enormous stamina have laid the foundations for the culture we live up north today. Efva Lilja's aim, is to understand an eternal hunger for history, roots and the need to make things comprehensible. What forces have shaped us and our linguistic codes? She attempts to gain understanding from a physical, embodied perspective as well as from an intellectual one. We are our bodies and our movements.

The Outmost White will be performed by one of Sweden's most brilliant dancers, Helene Karabuda. She has previously been a free-lance dancer in different ensembles both in Sweden and abroad. Since 1998 she is a distinguished solo-artist in the repertory of Efva Lilja. Original music by Swedish composer Tommy Zwedberg, known world wide for his music. He composes both instrumental and electronic acoustic music and his music is used in films, in TV productions and in dance performances. Light design by Mats Andreasson, a light designer well known for his designs at theatres, rock concerts and for his many productions in collaboration with Efva Lilja on tour around the world. All together an unforgettable experience. The art of dance at it's best!

The Outmost White

Dancer	HELENE KARABUDA
Choreography	EFVA LILJA
Original music	TOMMY ZWEDBERG
Light design	MATS ANDREASSON
Costume design	MALIN ARNELL

Duration 50 minutes

The World première of The Outmost White took place January the 27th 2003 at The Ice Globe Theatre Jukkasjärvi, Sweden.

Efva Lilja, Choreographer, Professor and Vice-Chancellor at Stockholm's University College of Dance, Sweden

Efva Lilja is a powerful and singular voice in the world of the contemporary arts. All her work bears a deeply personal stamp, and its highly individual aesthetic underpins a true poetics of dance. A compelling sense of the dramatic and a marvellous feeling for form allow her to show us the way to an entirely new experience of what is remarkable and strange about human life.

A highly developed way working helps with the breaking of new ground. Her work is penetrating, surprising and astonishes people by confronting them with a totally new experience of what dance can be. It is beautiful, ugly, at times inflammatory, and very enjoyable. Seeing her work is a thought-provoking experience as the audience encounters what are frequently unforgettable images and events.

It was with a background as a dancer that Efva Lilja started to work as a choreographer, and she presented her first work in 1982. Since then she has produced work for various stage settings, site specific performances, video and television. Some of her most celebrated work has been produced as commissions from major art institutions such as the Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris in 1994, Stockholm Museum of Modern Art in 2000 and 2003, the Baltic Art Centre in Visby 2001 and the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao in the same year. Efva Lilja has also written several notable books about dance.

In the course of the years, Efva Lilja has received a number of major prizes and awards for her artistic work. In 2003, she was appointed Professor of Choreography at the University College of Dance in Stockholm and in 2006 she became the Vice Chancellor of the school.