

**For Immediate Release  
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**Liz Lerman Dance Exchange  
presents**

***House Blend***

**Monday, January 25, 2010 – 8:00 PM  
at Round House Theatre Silver Spring**

dance  
exchange



Photo by Enoch Chan

Takoma Park, MD, January 19, 2010 – This month, don't miss the chance to see **Liz Lerman Dance Exchange**—an internationally touring dance company based in Takoma Park—perform locally at the **Round House Theatre Silver Spring**, January 25, 2010. Dance Exchange rings in the new year with new works by Liz Lerman and other company artists that explore an array of topics from rock-climbing and addiction to religion and evolution. *House Blend* features Liz Lerman's *Darwin's Wife* and Keith Thompson's *Blueprints of Relentless Nature* as well as works-in-progress *How To Lose a Mountain* by Cassie Meador and Elizabeth Johnson's *Rock*. Plus, after the performance there will be an audience dialogue with the dancers and artists.

In *Rock*, rock climber/choreographer Elizabeth Johnson tells a personal and physical tale. With assistance of other rock climbers, geologists, and addiction specialists, and an artist-in-residence program at Arizona State University, Johnson developed the multi-media solo. Humorous and emotional, it exposes a personal true story about navigating difficult terrain. "Through the many facets of rock," says Johnson, "we explore the destruction of addiction, the beauty of space, light, and the strength of climbing on."

Showing a short early study of *How To Lose a Mountain*, 2009 Metro DC Dance Award winner Cassie Meador will preview a project that will explore a family story through a physical journey. "They say my great-great-grandfather owned Stone Mountain in Georgia, but lost it in a poker bet," she says. "I've heard the same tale about other ancestors in other families in north Georgia. Is it just a story that every family tells, or did the deed to the mountain actually pass from hand to hand in a series of back-room poker games?" While the piece is in its initial stages of development, Meador has big plans for the continuing creative process for this work-in-

progress—she plans to walk 500 miles exploring sources that provide energy to her home in Washington, D.C.

*Darwin's Wife* is a solo for dancer Shula Strassfeld choreographed by Liz Lerman. The piece depicts Emma Darwin's struggle to reconcile her strong traditional religious beliefs with the discoveries and theories of her husband, Charles Darwin.

Keith Thompson, a new choreographic presence at Liz Lerman Dance Exchange, says “I am interested in movement that can stand on its own and speak for itself.” *Blueprints of Relentless Nature* brings that concept to life in an ensemble dance built with the collaboration of Dance Exchange company and adjunct artists. As the pure movement of four dancers who group and regroup in varied combinations, this high-velocity work maps energy patterns that shift, split, and reorient.

Liz Lerman Dance Exchange has long been known as a fertile incubator for multiple artistic and choreographic voices. The premise behind much of the work produced at the Dance Exchange is that choreographers, dancers, and experts work collaboratively to research and develop content based on concrete and timely topics. A piece intended for the stage may be reinvented for unusual environments over time. As Founder, Liz Lerman has always said that “the Dance Exchange is a place where everyone learns, grows and brings individual inspiration to the repertory – not just the Founder.”

### ***Performance Schedule for Round House Theatre Silver Spring***

#### *House Blend*

Monday, January 25, 2010 at 8 p.m.

\$15 General, \$12 Round House subscribers, senior citizens, patrons under 25 and groups of 10 or more

For more information and tickets

Box Office Phone: (240) 644-1100  
E-mail: [exchange@roundhousetheatre.org](mailto:exchange@roundhousetheatre.org)  
Address: 8641 Colesville Road  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

#### **About Liz Lerman Dance Exchange**

Liz Lerman founded Liz Lerman Dance Exchange in 1976. Its unique brand of dance/theatre breaks boundaries between stage and audience, theater and community, movement and language, tradition and the unexplored. Through explosive dancing, personal stories, humor, and a company of performers whose ages span six decades, Liz Lerman Dance Exchange stretches the expressive range of contemporary dance. Its work consists of formal concerts, interactive performances, specialized community residencies, and professional training in the art of community-based dance. An artist-driven organization, Liz Lerman Dance Exchange employs a collaborative approach to dance making, administration, and implementation. Representing the multiple artistic voices of Liz Lerman Dance Exchange, current choreographic projects include explorations of coal mining, genetic research, radical prayer, human rights, particle physics and geology.

For more information, please visit [www.danceexchange.org](http://www.danceexchange.org).