

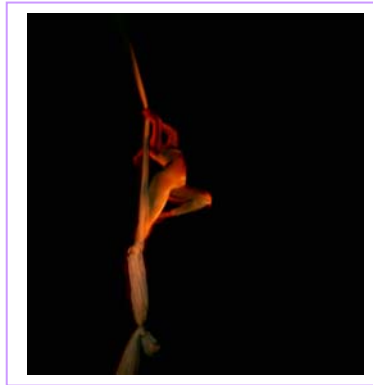
# Updraft: a conspiracy of movement

Update 2005

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## Suite Earth Soars!

Celebrating the works of famed poet and author Alice Walker, **Updraft: a conspiracy of movement** presented a collaboration of dancers and musicians speaking to what it means to be human and inviting us to reclaim our relationship to the world in the face of war, fear, destruction and renewal. This dramatic, evening length work, two years in the making with the input of many committed and creative individuals, was presented not once, but twice in 2005!



The show was self-produced at Baltimore Theatre Project, made possible through a grant from the Maryland State Arts Council, on February 22 and 23. Music Director Lynda Bell, and the band Mason, Bell, Helmick and Lay ably accompanied **Updraft** with a compelling musical score.

Then, on September 30, Suite Earth was presented to our own community at an amazing outdoor venue outside of Shepherdstown, West Virginia. Lynda Bell and her fabulous original music again accompanied the choreography, this time with the skillful musicians of Ivy Rowe.



### Factory Air

Combine an abandoned granary, a group of musicians who fashion their instruments from mechanical parts, and a group of dancers who like to hang, fly, and climb on whatever is handy and what do you get? The making of an avant-garde film, of course! In October and November, Updraft collaborated with Concerts in the Country to create footage for an innovative venture tentatively titled "Mill Movement Music." Updraft was thrilled to combine forces with Ric Wagner and his intrepid crew as we braved guano and rotting boards to achieve new vistas from handcrafted historic glass windows and bounced and bloomed alongside beckoning horns, resonant strings, and insistent percussion. Watch our website for information about the American Film Institute premiere in the spring of 2006!

### Lecture Demonstration for Students

In February, Updraft was invited to participate in Arts Week at The Banner School in Frederick, Maryland. Two presentations were given, first for primary grades, then for the middle school. An energetic administration and building staff made possible a secure rigging in the multipurpose room of the facility, from which marvelous things flowed. The students were highly engaged, offering rapt attention, elegant questions and thoughtful insights. Some of the students' comments as reported in their school newspaper included:

*"My favorite thing at arts week was the trapeze because they did cool stuff like she stood on the foot holders and climbed the fabric and she climbed and she climbed and then showed how to get down and that was my favorite part."*

*"This week was amazing. My favorite performance was Updraft because it was soothing and I could understand everything they showed. They were flawless."*

*"I really enjoyed the shows and performances we were treated to. The aerial dancers were beautiful . . . to be able to control the elements of physics like they did was really awesome."*



## On Tap for 2006

Updraft has been invited to return to Baltimore Theatre Project as a part of its Heptasoph Series, described as “a second helping of cutting edge and original work for those with an adventurous thirst.” The company is already hard at work to create a brand new show to be presented April 20, 21, 22, and 23.

Updraft has been making connections with presenters throughout the region to present Suite Earth and its timely concerns to a wider audience. We are particularly pursuing colleges and universities as well as more traditional community theaters and nontraditional venues.

## Not Your Average Dance Company

What makes Updraft so different from other dance companies? That is, apart from the work itself, which seems to appeal to many who are not “into dance” as well as those who are? Well, for starters, we are a collaborative group, functioning as a team, rather than a single choreographer and set of interchangeable bodies. Our process is important to us, and the beginning of the social change we are working to bring about. Our content matters too. We dance about things that don’t always make it to traditional stages—gutsy and important things like birth and death—about mysterious things like the shape and shade of our souls—about things that matter like war and our government—and about things that are close to our communities like development and the environment. It’s not always sober—we have fun, too, and incorporate all kinds of movement genres, from aerial dance, through technical and improvisational forms, to modalities that heal and nurture us. In addition to the professionals, we include community dancers and apprentices in our performances, to enrich and strengthen the work itself as well as the communities we all belong to. We give thanks and appreciation to all the dancers who have participated with Updraft this year including Brian Buck, Russ Duran, Cathy Ellzey, Michele Hartley, Kerianne Hinerman, Page Hinerman, and Thérèse Keegan.



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(Performance Graphics,  
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