

Updraft: a conspiracy of movement

Update
2006

"You swing your great heart out of the ground and put your shapes into the air. Half-crazy is not nearly enough for you!"

- Rumi

Turning Points

As we stand at the close of one year and on the brink of a new one, the sense of looking both back and forward seems especially apt with respect to our aerial dance company, **Updraft: a conspiracy of movement**. For three years we have clung, pushed, and soared our way through the birth pains of a collaborative artistic enterprise and emerged a professional company, ready for the next level of production and support.

In 2006, **Updraft** was presented at two major metropolitan venues, Washington D.C.'s Woolly Mammoth Theater (July, "Suite Earth") and Baltimore, Maryland's Theatre Project (April, "It's a Matter Of..."). We appeared on a Maryland Public Television program, produced a set of kick-butt marketing materials and participated in a major east coast booking conference in September. None of this would have been possible without the support of dedicated and talented individuals such as graphic artists Connie Malamed and Ron Hartley and videographers John Walker and Tom Keegan. We also received significant support from the Maryland State Arts Council and the Puffin Foundation.



Updraft: a conspiracy of movement

Artistic Director:
Thérèse Keegan

Company Manager:
Michele Hartley

Performers:
Brian Buck
Michele Hartley
Kerianne Hinerman
Thérèse Keegan

Please visit our website:
www.globalhomestead.org

Board members:
Bonnie Arnold
Betty Elzey
Connie Malamed

Some of our learnings this past year have included scary equipment failures, hard lessons about the scarcity of venues for the work we do and the need to educate presenters, the public, and ourselves about the risks and rewards of aerial dance. That's also the good news.

So here's the bad news. The resources upon which we have operated thus far are simply insufficient to accommodate the set of demands imposed by the larger sphere of performance opportunities to which we now aspire. Bigger leagues mean bigger bucks as costs rise for professional rigging, professional equipment (trapezes that won't break!), and professional staff.

We cannot go backwards. The way forward is with your help. What we need now is a stable base from which to operate, one consisting of support that is not tied to specific projects but to the existence and viability of the organization itself—and you can be a part of that. If you have expertise to offer, please let us know. If you wish to promote **Updraft** in your area, we can help you do that And, of course—tax-deductible gifts are gratefully accepted!



Suite Earth

Based on a work by Alice Walker, this earth-shattering modern dance/trapeze/live music performance speaks of what it means to be fully human and to reclaim our relationship to the world in the face of war, fear, destruction, and renewal.

It's A Matter Of...

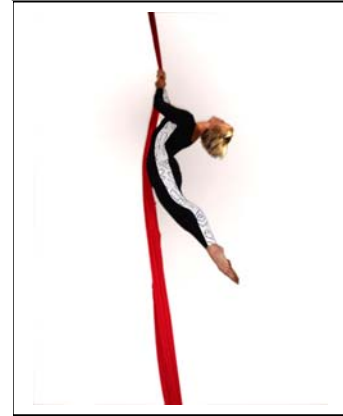
Looks at the whole range of human comings and goings, from our place in the cosmos to the pain and poetry of our departure from life. The work invites the audience to revel in the humor, love and mystery that is life, along with those same elements as they apply to death. The use of personal narrative and the strong connections among the dancers make for an exploration that is at once disquieting and irresistible.

If you wish to make a (fully tax-deductible) financial contribution to the work we are doing, make checks payable to **Global Homestead, Inc.**, and send them to 1233 Hoffmaster Road, Knoxville, MD, 21758. Many thanks!

Fear Factor

"Fear is a natural reaction to moving closer to the truth."
-Pema Chodron

Is it scary to do aerial work? Aren't you afraid hanging upside-down like that so high off the ground? Um, yeah... There's kind of a reptilian brain that kicks in sometimes that seeks to protect the cranium and other important parts from impact. Sure, aerial work is scary, but so is running a dance company.



Climbing up a length of fabric and endeavoring to make a living through one's commitment to important values such as art can be likened to a spiritual journey. One that is fueled by inspiration yet destined to encounter fear. As we stay right where we are and surrender to the vividness and reality of our experience, we have the opportunity to move forward a bit at a time and make discoveries that catapult us to a new place where the mystical process begins again. Nothing is ever what we expect it to be and if we can understand the good fortune in the chance to learn from the present moment, we can move to new heights in work and in our lives.

Our truth now with **Updraft** includes facing the physical realities of rope and wood, of seeking expertise and knowledge that sets a safe course, and of realizing the proper equipment to make the journey. That materials are both limited and transcendent is one of the paradoxes within which we live.

One Foot Atop the Other

Your contribution can make the safe continuance of our aerial work a reality. We have located custom equipment available through design and construction professionals that will withstand the challenges we make through the creation of dance pieces that pull, yank, and press. Each trapeze costs \$500 to produce and many of you have seen works requiring several. Please help us to whatever extent you are able, with a large gift of an indestructible metal bar, or any amount contributing to a longer length of secure rope extending our range of expression and your power and influence to bring it about.

Have You Seen It?

You can secure a private screening (or a viewing for a larger group of your friends or influential funders or presenters) of the critically acclaimed 7-minute 2006 demo DVD of **Updraft: a conspiracy of movement** by contacting us at (301) 834-9291 or slipperylope@cs.com.