

Updraft: a conspiracy of movement

Update 2007

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You Say You Want a Revolution

Or something else that happens in between U.S. elections that influences people and energizes them to create personal and community change. Okay, you might be channeling images of **Updraft: a conspiracy of movement**--inviting and inciting you to personal and global transformations as you accompany us on our performance journey. Whether at our April Open Studio at Slipperyslope in Maryland or at **Updraft's** return to the Folly at this wonderful local West Virginia venue, you may sense the energy and commitment that renews our goals of individual and community development.



Something in the way the company moves, perhaps at our December Studio Showcase or at other theatrical venues, may contribute to a sense of vitality and dedication that extends across performance boundaries. Something in the way the company moves through its expression of connections and losses moves us toward a fuller realization of our larger vision---one that excites and reunites us. For more information about **Updraft** and its projects, please visit our website at www.globalhomestead.org.



See How They Run

A series of out-of-state booking conferences dominated the calendars of **Updraft** this year, requiring hefty rental fees, conference table trimmings and electrical connections as we erected our displays in an effort to secure tour bookings. Continuing through the suggested three-year development timeframe, in 2007, **Updraft** mounted booths at the Performing Arts Exchange in Louisville, Kentucky in September and again in High Point, North Carolina in November. These conferences represent a sizeable portion of Updraft's budget, requiring substantial fees in exchange for the potential promise of future engagements involving the development of long-term cultivation of relationships and negotiations with various regional venues. **Updraft** was particularly pleased to be selected as a participant in this year's video showcase at the Performing Arts Exchange in Louisville in 2007.

Mountain Missive Coming in 2008

A new project for **Updraft: a conspiracy of movement** will be realized by this innovative aerial dance company in 2008. Arising from the diverse cultures residing in the Upper Shenandoah Valley region of Appalachia, "Mountain Missive" is the vision for an evening length work featuring aerial and modern dance that weaves together previously muted voices navigating the preservation of identity in an aggressive world.

Themes of "Mountain Missive" include environmental destruction, encroaching development, "hillbilly" stereotyping, indigenous peoples, mining communities, African American worship traditions and bootlegging. These themes are explored in movement conversations and sound collaborations carried out with skilled dance professionals and traditional cultural practitioners. The project rests on a set of guide communities, including a Native American tribe in Virginia seeking federal recognition and vanishing rural African American churches in the mountain countryside of West Virginia and Maryland. "Mountain Missive" will not be presenting traditional dance forms, but rather contemporary dance informed by traditional culture. Help us to preserve, extend, and celebrate the diverse cultures of our region!

Don't want to leave you now, you know I believe and how...

The man with the camera. The one with the quick wit. The one whose warmth and steady support buoyed an aerial dance company, and whose unique vision inspired multiple artistic projects over decades. Superlatives serve only to approximate the sublime experience of daily life with a troublesome company member who fed and nagged and chuckled and ignored and thrived on the life of a studio in his very home. John Walker, who left us on September 2 of this year, calls us to our best selves as we summon our courage to face a future without him.



Partner, friend, father, videographer, jokester, editor, lawyer, John belied the image of an attorney to those who met him in insulated coveralls and surprised those who met him in a suit, with stories of his homestead life of woodstove and donkeys. And how special is a guy who convinces half the world that all Beatles songs can be sung as rounds? (Please don't try this one at home!)

It's the biggest effort yet undertaken by **Updraft** to proceed with the energy of our memories, vivid and sustaining as they are, to support us as we fly into the territory we still occupy with John, though in an altered form. We weep, crawl, soar, and make our best effort at realizing the love that we learned on the journey with John Dabney Collier Walker. Namaste. Blessed Be.

Please Remember This

Updraft: a conspiracy of movement is a program of Global Homestead, Inc, and your contribution is fully tax deductible. Send your check to 1233 Hoffmaster Road, Knoxville, Md 21758. Please accept our thanks for your support and our best wishes for a secure and just future for all!

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 demo DVD of **Updraft: a conspiracy of movement** (edited by John Walker) by contacting us at (301) 834-9291 or slipperyslope@cs.com.