



[DANCE]

Dance Multidimensional

Jane Franklin troupe syncs with video, sound and installation

Last summer, dancers could be found flinging themselves along the curved walls of Northeast D.C.'s Langdon skate park, sliding down gracefully (and not so gracefully) as they executed skateboard-style tricks—twisting, twirling and falling—as nearby real boarders rode the ridge of the curved walls and performed the gravity-defying feats of the copycat artists. The rehearsals were videotaped as footage for “Breaking Ground,” a project by local troupe Jane Franklin Dance that combines the motions of skateboarding with choreography, improvisation, video and sound. Clips from the Langdon practice sessions were then projected during the live performance of “Breaking Ground” in September. This unique performance experience typifies the experimental style of Jane Franklin’s dance company. The Arlington-based troupe is known for combining visual art with various styles of dance—modern, jazz and what might best be simply defined as “movement.”

For Franklin, running her own company was never one of her original aspirations. Still, the dancer said she relishes the feeling of creating living, moving art.

“I never planned to have a dance company,” Franklin explained. “I almost always wanted to make things, though, and dance appealed to me because it is so of the moment. A choreographer is in a constant process of creation. Even when a dance is completely choreographed, or set, it is never really performed exactly the same way. Dance is always af-

fectured by the people who do it, and all the scores of variables that are part of the scheme of things of being human, alive.”

“Mostly my style of collaborating is to let the collaborator do exactly what they want to do in the context of the project,” added Franklin, who often joins forces with visual and media artists in order to create original productions.

“It usually works pretty well if my intuition has led me to starting off with the right collaborator in the

first place.”

Those interested in her latest collaboration can catch a performance of “Incidence” next month at the Mead Theater Lab in D.C. For this act, the dancers worked with composer Gina Biver and installation artist Howard Connelly in a new piece that explores the concept of timing and a series of random, happy accidents of daily life.

Get a schedule online at www.janefranklin.com.

Jane Franklin Dance company members Stacey Tytler and Sandra Atkinson (left) and Alexandra Hay and Mike Nadolski (below) prepare for a season of multimedia dance feats.



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