

Summergarden

The Museum of Modern Art

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AERIAL DANCERS OPEN FOURTH SUMMERGARDEN SEASON WITH
FREE PERFORMANCES FRIDAY MAY 31 AND SATURDAY JUNE 1

The Multigravitational Experiment Group, seven dancers who perform in mid-air on a complex rigging of rope, clear plastic tubes and rubber slings suspended from a metal scaffolding will present free performances at 8:30 pm Friday May 31 and Saturday June 1. This is the opening weekend of SUMMERGARDEN's four-month season, made possible by a grant from Mobil Oil Corporation. From May 31 through September 29, The Museum of Modern Art's world-famous Sculpture Garden will be open as a free public park from 6 pm to 11 pm every Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Entrance is through the Garden gate at 8 West 54 Street.

The Multigravitational Experiment Group, consisting of dancers, sculptors, designers, sound and light artists, performs within a 15-foot-high, 27-foot-long metal scaffolding which supports a variety of devices such as ropes, slings and tubes of clear plastic from which the dancers are suspended and through which they move. The Group works with two resident composers, Terance Thomas and Richard Hayman, who produce original scores for choreography by Stephanie Evanitsky, the Group's Artistic Director, and Robert Fiala, Assistant Artistic Director. Lighting is designed by Charles Dexter.

The program for their SUMMERGARDEN performance begins with SPLAT, a joint Evanitsky-Fiala choreography of "circus couples spilling out of their fantasy acts, playing out a flamboyant display of ways to fly." The score is by Fiala. Three other works complete the program: ALIEN CONNECTION, choreographed by Fiala, is a "myth of an interstellar cycle which forms and reforms a primal matrix"; SURE WAS, by Evanitsky, is about "phantom relationships and partnerings that float through the mind; a surreal entering of a dreamer into her psyche and then balancing on an emotional tightrope as she assembles and reassembles the dream's images";

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and SILVER SCREAM IDOLS, also by Evanitsky, is a "calligraphy of the rise and fall of super-stars, with stop motion and snap shot pictures of their show-time masks...."

Ms. Evanitsky explains that when a dancer performs on the ground, "the movement can be traced to and understood through reference to the floor, which is a continuous, predictable plane." This is not true in the air, she says, since "our motion is derived from flexible, free moving, minimal supports. To see us dance in the air means that you also must forget the ground.... A part of our aesthetic rests on experiencing what's up there and remaining open to the flight.... Our theater explores ... psychological states of existence off the ground...."

She is currently researching an Homage to Picasso with the assistance of a Guggenheim Fellowship. Recent performances by The Multigravitational Experiment Group, a resident of Space for Innovative Development, include The Clark Center for the Performing Arts, N.Y.; Festival d'Automne de Paris; The Museum of Modern Art, New York; The American Dance Educators' Conference, New York University; the Fylkingen Theater, Stockholm; and The Brooklyn Museum, among others.

SUMMERGARDEN presents free performances by a variety of artists each Friday and Saturday evening through September 29. Small Planet, a folk group, appears June 7 and 8; Guitarist Bill Matthews plays classical music June 14-15; Manju Prasad performs Hindu Dance June 21-22; and Beverly Radin's Chamber Ensemble appears June 28-29. Other performances selected by Ed Bland, Program Director, range from Arp Synthesizer music and Jazz on a concert harp to a one-man walking Punch and Judy show.

Additional information available from Earl Hatleberg for SUMMERGARDEN, and Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 W. 53 St., New York, NY 10019. Phone: (212) 956-7504; 956-7501.
