

AERIAL DANCERS AT SUMMERGARDEN ON SEPTEMBER 14 AND 15

The Multigravitational Group, six dancers who perform entirely above the ground on a specially-constructed scaffold, will present four pieces in the Sculpture Garden of The Museum of Modern Art on Friday and Saturday, September 14 and 15 at 8:00 p. m.

The aim of the group has been described by its director, Stephanie Evanitsky:

Since 1969 Multigravitational has been experimenting and searching to revive the "bird in man." A part of our aesthetic rests on experiencing what's up there and remaining open to the flight-- whose adventure stirs deep roots; awakens archetypal hopes, fears and dreams. Certain of our own experiences with the air touch a realm of consciousness so seldom reached that we feel open to another reality. Our theater explores these psychological states of existence off the ground: a "theater of translucence" whereby an event is lived and realized not only as a thing in itself, but also as a thread to a different order of experience.

The 15-by-26-foot steel scaffold supports a variety of devices from which the dancers hang and through which they move: ropes, slings, plastic tubes. As art critic Barbara Rose has noted: "Air dancing simultaneously frees the body from gravity and conventional choreography. Thus their [the dancers'] configurations are more static and structural than normal dance arrangements and bring to mind sculpture in the round as much as dance." The Museum program will include "Silver Scream Idols," "Sure-Was," "Splat" and "Alien Connection."

The performance is offered as part of Summergarden, Mobil Foundation's gift to New York. It enables the Museum to open its Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Sculpture Garden without charge on Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings from 6 to 11 p. m. through September 30. Entertainment scheduled for Friday and Saturday nights begins at 8 p. m. Access to the garden is through the gates at 8 West 54th Street.

(more)

Next week's performers will be Elaine Summers Dance and Film Co., which will present its work on Friday and Sunday evenings, instead of the usual Friday and Saturday.

Additional information from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, and Mark Segal, Assistant, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, New York 10019. Phone: (212) 956-7501, 956-7296.