



September 5, 2001

Fall Arts Preview

Conduit

By Kelly Clarke

In addition to offering they myriad top-notch classes this rehearsal space-*cum*-dance consortium presents for Portland's professional-level dancers, Conduit is committed to supporting work from both new and recognized regional artists. Aero/betty alum Jae Diego kicks off the newly re-consecrated dance space with her intriguing library-minded work, *Athenaeum* (Sept. 7-9). The focus on presenting more performances stems from internal changes in the Conduit structure. It was created in 1995 as a space to foster the work of six local dance dynamos, but come September only two of the original collective, Teresa Mathern and Mary Oslund, will be directly associated with the space. Oslund, who is currently restructuring repertory work in the same vein as her superb show *9 Red Steps* last April, promises that the shift (including acquiring nonprofit status and a board of directors) will only increase the community aspect of their breezy downtown gigs. This should allow Conduit to support more up-and-coming artists while keeping its high-quality, educational focus.