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In what's being modestly billed as a low-tech Summer Dance Festival, Teresa Mathern and Mary Oslund, co-directors of downtown dance mecca Conduit, are hosting a three-weekend profusion of performance. New work by Mathern and Carla Mann, repertory by Oslund, a spate of workshops and two enticing visiting artists from New York are part of the bill.

Oslund and Mathern have long occupied top spots on Portland's A-list of modern-dance choreographers, and this show may well put Mann, assistant director of dance at Reed College, on the roster. "The Festival is about showcasing our guest artists, about Tere premiering new work, and it's about Carla Mann, big time," Oslund says. "She's one of Portland's best-kept secrets. People are going to be jaw-dropped by her."

The local trio will be joined by Mariah Maloney and Tiffany Mills, two New York dancers who have launched successful careers after decades with postmodern dance icon Trisha Brown. Mills now heads her own company, while Maloney is sweeping the New York circuit as a solo artist.

Audiences accustomed to Oslund's flinty, flesh-on-flesh detonations will find her trademark kinetic aggression somewhat tempered in "9 Red Steps" and "Kinder Weather," which make a nice segue into Mathern's more fluid, naturalistic style. Mathern will debut "Water," the eagerly awaited installment of her radiant nature-based epic, "elements," on the festival's second weekend. She'll be joined by Mills and a visiting company member. The festival's final weekend features Mann's 10-member company in four works, two of them premieres.