

The Oregonian

Friday, February 24, 2006

Conduit's guest room is full

By Bob Hicks

Conduit, Portland's incubator for contemporary dance, is home base or welcoming guest room for all sorts of the city's dance-makers: Mary Oslund, Tere Mathern, Minh Tran, Catherine Egan, Gregg Bielemeier, Robyn Conroy and others. The downtown dance space, a big fourth-story room with white-painted colonial paneling and walls of windows that suffuse the place with brightness when they're not blocked off for performances, is also host to a steady flow of dance artists from out of town for both performances and workshops. Next month, for instance, Australian choreographer Leigh Warren, in town with his company to perform in the White Bird series, will give a master class at Conduit.

Los Angeles multidisciplinary artist Michael Sakamoto shows up this weekend, and it could be one of Conduit's more intriguing performances. Sakamoto is a visual artist and dance/theater performer whose butoh-influenced work plays around with the permeation of pop culture and mass media and fuses Eastern and Western influences to create what he calls "a benevolent multiculturalism."

In Portland, he'll dance a solo version of "The Rite of Spring, etc.," his stark version of Stravinsky's revolutionary classic. He'll also offer a workshop, "Mind/Body/Time: Creating Character Through Movement."

Performance: 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Conduit, fourth floor, 918 S.W. Yamhill St.; \$10-\$15, 503-221-5857, ext. 2.

Workshop: 1-4 p.m. Sunday, Conduit; \$40 (includes admission to performance); 503-221-5857, ext. 2.

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