

# THE EXAMINER

PETERBOROUGH  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1994

## Apogee a high point for dance fans

By BEA QUARRIE  
Examiner Arts Reviewer

Of course people can fly!  
Debra Brown, best known for her stunning choreography for Montreal's Le Cirque du Soleil, proves that with her new work called Apogee.

A ground-breaking piece workshopped here last year, Apogee invents a new vocabulary for dancer and observer by using the trampoline as the dancer's surface.

The theme of freedom, for both body and soul, is explored by denying gravity in a stylized balletic compilation of movement, music and visual effects.

From birth, via a bungee cord, to death in rooted stillness, the three circus performers move gracefully through the various stages of struggle and release in the life cycle.

Creating a terrific sense of weightlessness and constantly interacting with the singer and musicians, this ensemble manages to transfer to the audience the sense of euphoria experienced by dancers when they

### Apogee

■ **Choreographer:** Debra Brown

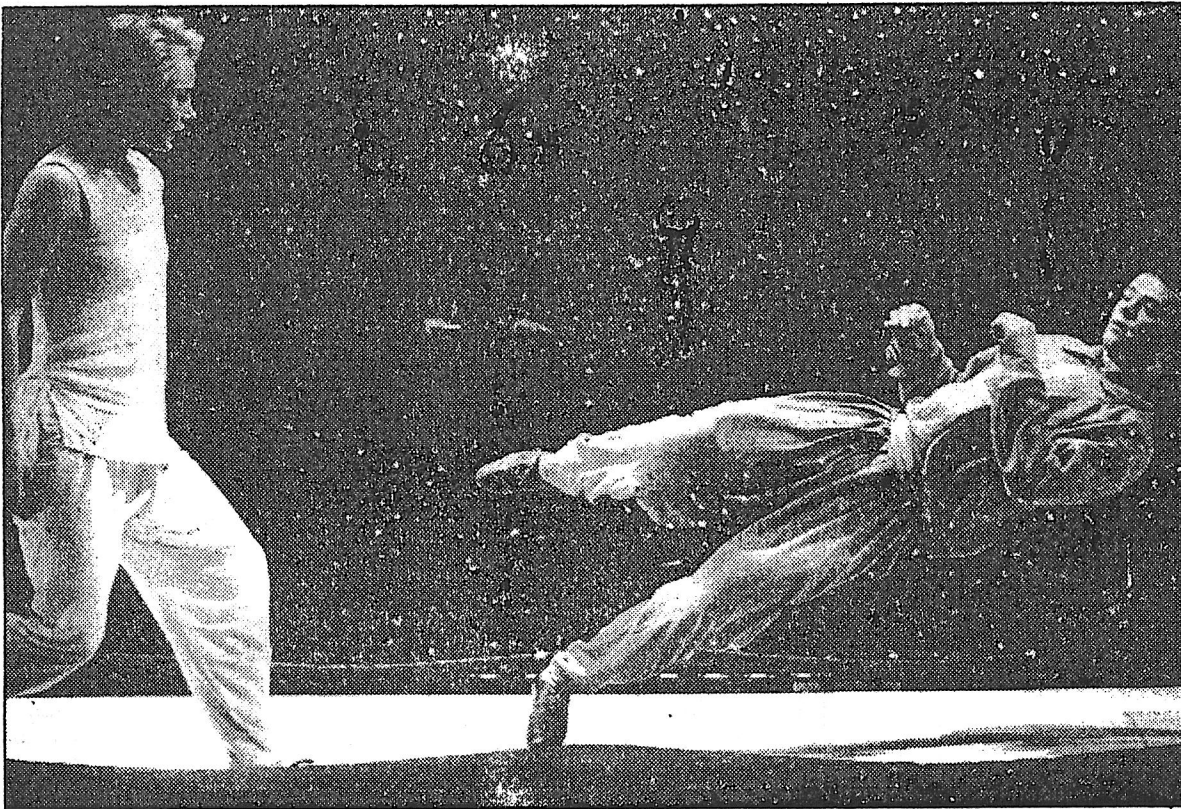
■ **When, where:** Nov. 17, 18 and 19, Market Hall

have completed a perfectly graceful move.

Apogee engages the audience, pulling, pushing, challenging, surprising and teasing them on to the next phrase of movement. There is no rest, no interruption to the flow of action, no intermission to their demanding work. The five performers (plus opera singer and two guitarists and a flutist) glide on their excursion through life experiences skillfully aided by subtle visual effect from designer Jerrard Smith of Peterborough.

Mesmerized and craving more, the audience feels energized and strangely uplifted at the end of the program.

What a wonderful start to the upcoming dance season!



Dancers Alisoun Payne and Alain Gauthier in a scene from Debra Brown's Apogee.