

Apogee: Dancework by Debra Brown

Press Release

Debra Brown, best known for her stunning choreography for Montreal's Le Cirque du Soleil, is performing in Peterborough November 17, 18, and 19.

With her collaborators, production designer Jerrard Smith (a frequent collaborator with Robert Desrosier and R. Murray Schafer,) composer/musician Petit Pierre Laurendeau, and lighting designer Patrick Matheson, Ms. Brown has created a multi-level work that fuses dance, theatre, circus and music.

Utilising the ultimate dance floor, the bed of a trampoline, *Apogee* invents an entirely new vocabulary of vertical movement. The quest for height, and the value system embedded in the vertical, permeate our language and culture; from notions of where heaven might be, to the stylised denial of gravity in ballet, to athletic competition where height is the ultimate goal. *Apogee* explores these themes with movement and music.

By controlling their rebounds off the trampoline, the three circus-and dance-trained performers of *Apogee* create a sense of risk, dynamic weightlessness, struggle and release, complete physical freedom, rising and falling, gravity and suspension. Moving gracefully on and off the trampoline, sometimes suspended over it in mid-air, now descending to the floor below, now climbing to a balcony above, Ms. Brown sends her performers on a

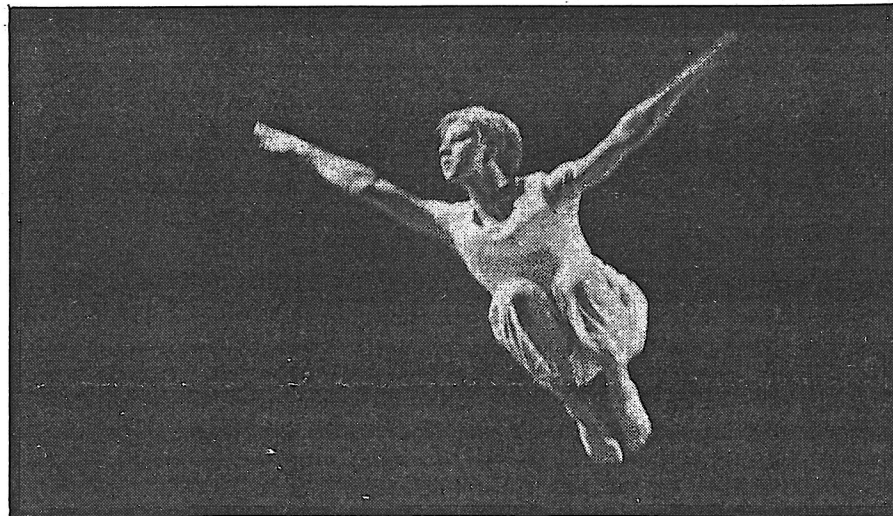
balletic journey through life, on heaven and earth, from birth to death.

The music for *Apogee* is performed live on stage by five performers, including composer Petit Pierre Laurendeau, an opera singer, two guitarists and a flutist.

About Debra Brown

For Ms. Brown, *Apogee* signals a return to creating her own vision of dance, after more than fifteen years of moving between opera, dance, circus and gymnastics. Since 1985, she has been presented by many of Canada's leading dance presenters, including Tangente, Danceworks and Montreal's Festival International de la Nouvelle Danse. Her work in opera includes the 1991 world premiere of *The Ghosts of Versailles* for the New York Metropolitan Opera and the spectacular bungee-jumping *Rheinmaidens* in the 1993 Chicago Lyric Opera production of *Das Rheingold*. Since 1987, Ms. Brown has choreographed all of Le Cirque du Soleil's productions. Her choreography for Le Cirque's *Salimbanco* was used by Peter Gabriel on the 1993 Grammy Awards telecast. Highlights of her gymnastic career include choreographing Lori Fung, Canada's 1984 Olympic Gold Medallist in rhythmic gymnastics.

Debra Brown's *Apogee* is presented by Peterborough New Dance, Nov. 17-19, 8pm at the Market Hall, George Street at Charlotte. Tickets are \$8 for students and seniors, \$10 for others. For more information: 749-3220.



"Pay What You Can" is offered Nov. 19th at the door for all remaining tickets.