

THINK VISUALLY

Conceptual vocabulary at the Tang and miniatures at the Albany airport./H5



ARTS • EVENTS

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PERFORMANCE

'Entre-Deux' a mystery with every show

By **JOSEPH DALTON**
Special to the Times Union

On the hill above Troy, there's an enormous glass and steel structure taking shape — the future home of the Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Although the building is still two years from opening, EMPAC already has a staff of nine people who are producing events at various venues. So far there have been concerts and movies, but also some rather unclassifiable happenings like an evening of giant-sized computer gaming and an inter-

active electronic playpen called "Bubbles."

If it's still hard to get a handle on what the folks at RPI have in mind with EMPAC, their latest presentation will only continue the mystery. The name of the piece is in another language, the performers are from another country and the piece will be staged before an audience of one (at a time). Most surprising of all, admission is free.

"Entre-Deux," which opens Thursday, lasts approximately 10 minutes and will be performed exactly 160 times by *kondition pluriel*, a troupe from Montreal specializing in dance and technol-

ogy. The venue for "Entre-Deux" is a couple of mobile office units placed on the RPI campus specifically for this event. A special lounge for audience members has been set up inside the Folsom Library. (See box on Page H2 for more details, including how to make a reservation.)

During a recent conversation at the EMPAC offices, located in RPI's Winslow Building (former site of the Junior Museum), EMPAC dance curator Helene Lesterlin was elusive on the details of what actually will happen during "Entre-Deux."

Please see **'ENTRE-DEUX' H2** ▶



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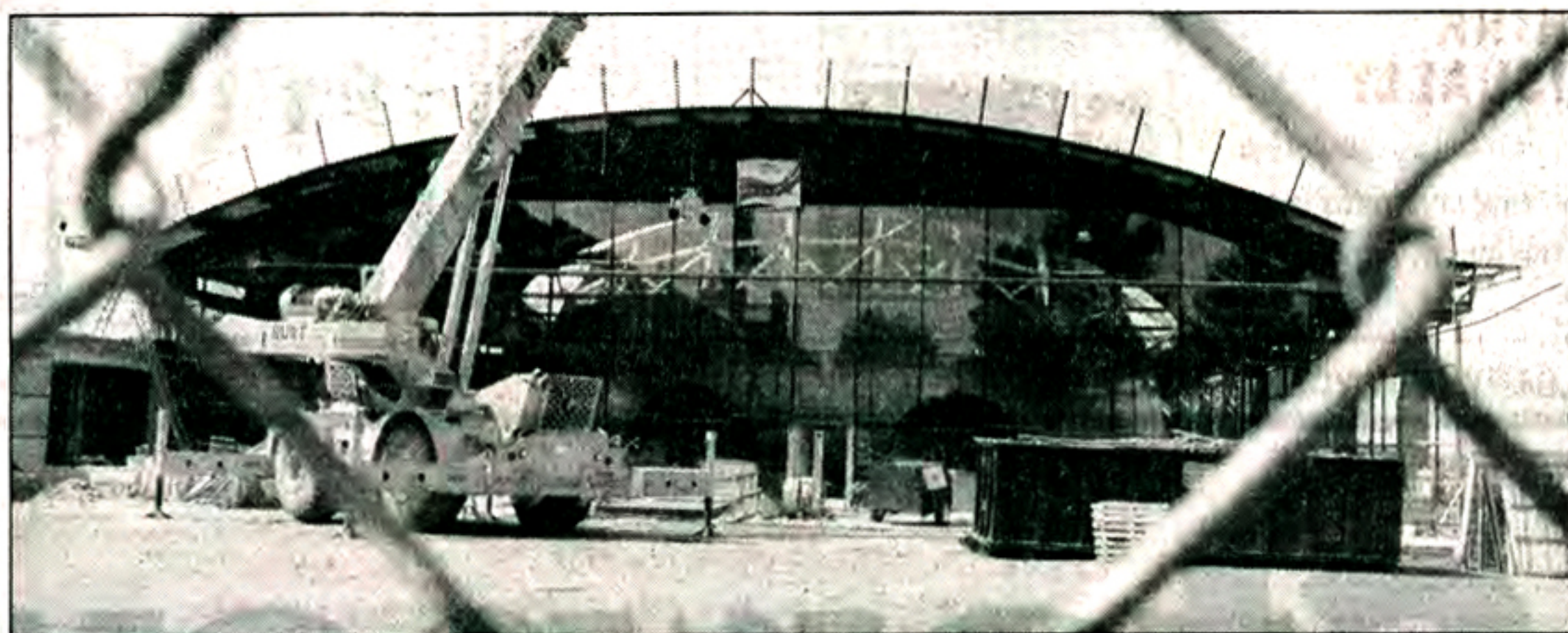
HELENE LESTERLIN, EMPAC dance curator, won't reveal too much about a Montreal dance troupe's plans for upcoming performances staged for audiences of one in office trailers at RPI.

INSIDE

STAGE • "A Chorus Line" returns to Broadway with a "tribute to dancer's spirit."/H2

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RPI'S Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center won't be completed for another two years, but events connected with the venue, including this week's "Entre-Deux," are already taking place.

'ENTRE-DEUX': Always mystery

▼CONTINUED FROM H1

Q: I've heard they do this kind of thing in Canada, but is it legal in the United States?

A: We actually had a hard time with that. We had to jump through quite a few hoops but we did find a way to make it legal.

Q: Does the Department of Homeland Security know about this?

A: Yes, we had to do an extensive process of petitioning Homeland Security to get visas for these people.

Q: Will anyone touch me during the performance?

A: I don't want to give too much away. But I think you'll be touched by the performance.

Q: Will there be nudity?

A: I have no control over artistic content. They have not yet told me the amount of nudity.

Q: Do I remain clothed?

A: That's totally up to you.

Q: Are support groups available afterward?

A: Yes. We have a lounge set up to help you relax before the

experience and perhaps to help you afterward as well.

Q: This starting to sound like an Amway presentation. Will I leave with catalogs and a sales quota for the next month?

A: It depends on what you bring to it. We'll work with what you've got.

Q: Do I have to sign a waiver before entering?

A: I'll get back to you on that.

Q: The music, will it be more John Lennon or Yoko Ono?

A: It's more a medley.

Q: Like "Greatest Hits of the '70s"?

A: Exactly.

Q: And the movement — more City Ballet or "Romper Room"?

A: Neither. We should focus less on dance and more on cinematic acrobatics.

Q: So sort of Esther Williams?

A: I'd say more like "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon."

Q: Can I sit in the balcony?

A: There is no balcony. It's very comfortable, but I would not wear high heels.

Q: Will every performance be the same?

A: No. Each performance is unique.

Q: Then how do I trash it when I talk to people afterward?

A: Well, I'll trust your powers of imagination and ingenuity.

Singular sensation

EMPAC presents
"ENTRE-DEUX"

■ **What:** Montreal dance troupe kondition pluriel; four days of back-to-back performances of "Entre-Deux" (In-Between), a 10-minute piece that combines dance and interactive technology. Each performance is for an audience of one.

■ **When:** Thursday-Sunday. Performances are schedule every 15 minutes, noon-10 p.m. Thursday-Friday; 1-11 p.m. Saturday; and 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday.

■ **Where:** The "Entre-Deux Lounge" is located adjacent to the Folsom Library on the RPI campus. From there, audience members are escorted to the performance venue.

■ **Admission:** Free, but reservations are required. Call 276-3921.

■ **Info:**
<http://www.empac.rpi.edu>

Q: Do I have to applaud at the end?

A: I think it would be rude not to.

Joseph Dalton is a local freelance writer who contributes regularly to the Times Union.