

# NIAGARA FALLING

the dance of urban decay

by grier cooper

DANCE STAGES

The west wall of the Renoir Hotel sets the stage for the world premiere of the aerial dance and multimedia event *Niagara Falling*, by Flyaway Productions' **Jo Kreiter** and video artists **David** and **Hi-Jin Hodge**. Dancers suspended in life jackets will be juxtaposed against the Hodge's images of what is thriving and what is collapsing in the urban landscape and an original score by Carla Kihlstedt and Matthias Bossi.

From the project's inception, while Ms. Kreiter and the Hodges were discussing the collapse of the town of Niagara Falls over the last 30 or 40 years, it became apparent that the issue was more widespread. "The problems of video artist David Hodge's hometown of Niagara Falls are a microcosm of the urban decay that has infested our country on a national scale," says Kreiter.

"It was interesting to me to think about these issues on that scale and also very locally. Looking at San Francisco, focusing on the stories that have come off of 6th Street. I feel like we are telling a story that could happen in any town in the country, and is happening," she continues. "*Niagara Falling* is an effort to represent this reality through an artistic, interdisciplinary language." Thus the issue will be brought to life through performance in the middle of one of the busiest intersections amidst one of the most aggressive homeless populations in San Francisco.

What about San Francisco's future? "While there's this huge economic gap growing there's also this incredible spirit of hope among economic activists, such as Urban Solutions, who are finding day-to-day solutions to problems and not whining," says Kreiter. "There's a lot more hope here. That was an interesting thing to note. It's been wonderful to me to get the voice of people who live and work on 6th Street out via this project... that is my hope."

## NIAGARA FALLING

September 26 to 29

West Wall, Renoir Hotel

7th & Market Streets, SF

FREE | flyawayproductions.com



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