

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

DANCE REVIEW

Daring 'Niagara' a spellbinding leap

By Allan Ulrich

Jo Kreiter has returned with a new excursion into the ether, a practice in which she has few, if any, rivals hereabouts. "Niagara Falling," a combination of high-flying, low-dangling acrobatics, music and film, was unveiled Wednesday evening in downtown San Francisco, on the west wall of the Renoir Hotel, an ample performance space for these six acrobat-dancers, who, apparently know no fear.

About 100 people gathered on a typically brisk San Francisco evening to

Niagara Falling: Jo Kreiter. 8:30 p.m., 9:30 p.m. Saturday. Western wall, Renoir Hotel, Seventh Street at Market, S.F. Free. www.flyawayproductions.com.

watch the 30-minute "Niagara Falling," a co-production of Dancers' Group/Onsite and Kreiter's Flyaway Productions. The hushed atmosphere in the crowd on this usually raffish corner testified to the spellbinding quality of the project.

It's not all daredevil maneuvers, however. There's a message. Like the Kreiter works that preceded it, "Niagara Falling" advocates the amelioration of urban blight. Three women (Sandia Langlois, Caitly Beard and Jennifer Chien) encumbered with orange life preservers, rappel down the side of the building, while a fourth wriggles on the rooftop. Behind them, there's a projection of a documentary film by David Hodge and Hi-Jin Hodge, with appended commentary by denizens of the area, exam-

ining the devolution of the Sixth and Mission neighborhood.

Later, the Hodges provide footage of Niagara Falls, N.Y., with its inhabitants lamenting the town's decline (though it doesn't look so bad in the movie). The onscreen witnesses utter statements both wistful and enigmatic. (What is the meaning of "The Love Canal was to Niagara Falls what Rock Hudson was to AIDS"?)

It's hard to relate the trajectories of Kreiter's performers to her plea for urban renewal, except that she chooses venues in decaying areas for her site-specific endeavors. Oddly, we turn our gaze skyward to observe her work, averting our eyes from the blight on the ground. It's a contradiction, to be sure. Chien twists in air, Langlois "cycles up" the wall and a voice-over sermonizes about SoMa, and that all brings "Niagara Falling" to an inert finale, spiced with a film of a woman running into ocean waves (cliche alert).



Austin Forbord / Rapt Productions

Dancer-acrobats Sandia Langlois (left), Caitly Beard and Jennifer Chien rappel down a wall of the Renoir Hotel as part of Jo Kreiter's "Niagara Falling."

Crossword Puzzle

S	T	R	A	P	B	E	T	A	R	O	D	E
S	A	U	T	E	R	A	I	L	L	E	W	E
T	U	O	R	M	O	U	S	E	V	E	N	I
S	T	E	P	H	E	N	H	E	R	E	T	I
A	S	T	I	A	R	O	M	A				
T	U	L	L	P	S	E	R	V	I	C	E	
O	P	A	L	S	E	E	L	Y	A	D	S	
I	D	O	L	N	O	L	T	E	P	L	I	E
L	O	S	R	I	C	A	C	R	A	N	E	
S	T	A	I	R	D	I	R	E				
M	E	D	D	L	E	S						
A	H	A	B	T	U	T	E	E	S	H	I	R
R	E	M	T	T	E	A	R					
T	E	N	T									
F	E	N	T									

Sudoku Puzzle

3	1	9	4	2	8	7	6	5
4	2	6	7	5	1	8	3	9
7	8	5	6	9	3	1	2	4
9	3	4	8	6	7	5	1	2
2	5	1	3	4	9	6	8	7
8	6	7	2	1	5	4	9	3
5	7	8	1	3	2	9	4	6
1	4	2	9	7	6	3	5	8
6	9	3	5	8	4	2	7	1

Today's Crossword

D	U	C	T	H	A	Z	Y	V	O	T	E				
I	T	Z	A	R	E	N	E	A	L	E	C				
B	A	A	L	E	X	T	R	A	N	A	S				
S	H	R	E	D	S	F	O	S	I	F	S				
W	O	R	T	H	I	E	R	S	P	L	A	S			
H	A	U	S	T	R	A	M	T	A	T	I	U			
L	I	S	S	E	I	D	E	R	A	I	S	O			
L	E	T	T	O	E	A	S	E	B	R	A	I			
E	S	S	A	I	S	A	S	R	A	V	E	L	I	N	G
G	A	L	L	E	S	L	I	D	S	O	L	O			
A	X	I	S	E	L	A	T	E	S	E	R	I	A		
M	E	N	U	N	A	K	E	D	O	M	A	R			
S	L	A	P	T	I	E	D								

Challenger Chess

2	3	4	4	13
6	2	7	2	11
8	7	9	6	30
9	7	8	6	30
25	19	22	18	19

1. Qd3ch! Ka5
2. h3! f...
Qe6, simply
2. Qxd4
[Wang-Bologan '12].

CALENDAR

MUSIC

Afromassive 9:30 p.m. \$10. Boom Boom Room, 1601 Fillmore St., S.F. (415) 673-8000. www.boombooblues.com.

Jason Aldean, Luke Bryan, Rachel Farley 7:30 p.m. \$29.75-\$64.25. Shoreline Amphitheatre, One Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View. (650) 967-3000. www.shorelineamphitheatre.com.

Beach House, Dustin Wong 8 p.m. \$27.50. Fox Theater, 1807 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. (510) 452-0438. www.thefoxoakland.com.

Brecker Brothers Band 8 p.m. \$30-\$70. Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness Ave., S.F. (866) 920-5299. www.sfjazz.org.

This Charming Band, For

the Masses 9 p.m. \$10.50-\$12. Cafe Du Nord, 2170 Market St., S.F. (415) 861-5016. www.cafedunord.com.

Father John Misty, Jenny O 8 p.m. \$15. 628 Divisadero St. (415) 771-1421. www.theindependentssf.com.

Henry Gray 8 and 10 p.m. \$22-\$24. Biscuits & Blues, 401 Mason St., S.F. (415) 292-2583. www.biscuitsandblues.com.

Hatebreed, Whitechapel, All Shall Perish, Deez Nuts 7:30 p.m. \$20-\$23. Regency Center Grand Ballroom, 1290 Sutter St. www.theregencyballroom.com.

Jonah's onlinedrawing, lamani, Ben Flanagan 9 p.m. \$10. Bottom of the Hill, 1233 17th St., S.F. (415) 621-4455. www.bottomofthehill.com.

Kingsborough, the Institution, Ray Frankly, Cheating Daylight, the Wesley Project

7 p.m. \$15. Slim's, 333 11th St., S.F. (415) 255-0333. www.slims-sf.com.

Pentatonix, Alexander Cardinaline 9 p.m. Great American Music Hall, 859 O'Farrell St., S.F. (415) 885-0750. www.gamh.com.

Tracing Figures, Scarlet Stoic, the Major Deegan, Adrienne Shamzad 9 p.m. \$7-\$10. Hotel Utah, 500 Fourth St., S.F. (415) 546-6300. www.hotelutah.com.

Tito y Su Son de Cuba 8 and 10 p.m. \$20. Yoshi's, 510 Embarcadero W., Oakland. (510) 238-9200. www.yoshis.com.

Train, Mat Kearney, Andy Grammer 7 p.m. \$39.50-\$79.50. Greek Theatre, Hearst Avenue and Gayley Road, Berkeley. (510) 548-3010. www.apeconcerts.com/venue_greekTheatre.cfm.

The Ways & Means Committee 6:30 p.m. Free. Yoshi's,

1330 Fillmore St., S.F. (415) 655-5600. www.yoshis.com.

Zodiac Death Valley, Finish Ticket, the Dandelion Stop 8 p.m. \$12. Rickshaw Stop, 155 Fell St., S.F. (415) 861-2011. www.rickshawstop.com.

COMEDY

Deray Davis 8 and 10:15 p.m. Fri.-Sat.; 8 p.m. Sun. \$25. Cobb's, 915 Columbus Ave., S.F. (415) 928-4320. www.cobbscomedyclub.com.

Rory Scovel, Chris Garcia, Chris Thayer 8 and 10 p.m. \$15-\$21. Punch Line, 444 Battery St., S.F. (415) 397-4337. www.punchlinecomedyclub.com.

THEATER

Beach Blanket Babylon 8 p.m. \$25-\$130. Club Fugazi, 678 Green St., S.F. (415) 421-4222. www.beachblanketbabylon.com.

Chinglish 8 p.m. \$14.50-\$99. Berkeley Rep's Roda Theatre, 2015 Addison St., Berkeley. (510) 647-2949. www.berkeleyrep.org.

The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity 8 p.m. \$32-\$50. Aurora Theatre, 2081 Addison St., Berkeley. (510) 843-4822.

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www.auroratheatre.org.

The Fisherman's Wife 8 p.m. \$10-\$20. La Val's Subterranean, 1834 Euclid Ave., Berkeley. impacttheatre.com.

Lucky Stiff 8 p.m. \$38-\$47. Leshner Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. (925) 943-7469. www.centerrep.org.

The Normal Heart 8 p.m. \$25-\$95. American Conservatory Theater, 415 Geary St., S.F. (415) 749-2228. www.act-sf.org.

The Other Place 8 p.m. \$22-\$62. Magic Theatre, Building D, Fort Mason Center, S.F. (415) 441-8822. www.magictheatre.org.

The Real Americans 8 p.m. \$25-\$50. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia St., S.F. (415) 282-3055. www.themarsh.org.

The Waiting Period 8 p.m. \$15-\$50. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia St., S.F. (415) 282-3055. www.themarsh.org.

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