



ARTS



## Heartfelt 'Twins'

Wiig, Hader excellent playing serious roles

PAGE 9

THE CITY

## Market upheaval

Vote to allow sale of Flower Mart passes

PAGE 5

## Tech support

Salesforce donates \$5M to S.F. schools

PAGE 6

SPORTS



## Giants on a roll

Peavy sharp in win; Giants prep for L.A.

PAGE 18

# Power of art to improve lives

Creator of aerial performance in the Tenderloin hopes event will shed light on plight of homeless women living in The City PAGES 4, 10



## AROUND THE BAY AREA

### ALAMEDA COUNTY

▪ **A Livermore golf instructor pleaded guilty to seven felony counts for sexually abusing three boys he was teaching and then trying to solicit someone to murder them.** Andrew Nisbet, 32, had faced a total of 75 felony counts for allegedly abusing the boys, who were between the ages of 12 and 17, according to Livermore police. Nisbet was also charged with three felony counts of solicitation of murder for allegedly trying to hire a hit man to murder the victims in his case after he was in jail. Nisbet faces a term of 27 years in state prison when he is sentenced on Oct. 9.

▪ **Police are investigating a shooting in East Oakland that sent a 1-year-old boy to the hospital.** Oakland police said officers responded to the 2600 block of 77th Avenue in response to a 1-year-old being shot. The injury was not life-threatening and the child was transported to a hospital in stable condition. Police are investigating whether the shooting was an accident.

### SANTA CLARA COUNTY

▪ **Wildlife officials said that it could take up to two days of testing to determine if they shot and killed the same mountain lion that attacked and injured a 6-year-old boy on a hiking trail in Cupertino.** Rabies testing could be finished sometime Thursday, while DNA results could be available as early as today, said Lt. Patrick Foy, a California Fish and Wildlife spokesman. Officials have DNA from saliva and bite marks the big cat left on the boy and his clothing, and they also will check under its claws.

▪ **A San Jose bar had its license to sell and serve alcohol suspended for 30 days by the state Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control** after the department determined a bar employee in 2013 served alcohol to two 19-year-olds who were involved in a fatal DUI crash after they left the establishment on Jan. 11, 2013. ABC agents posted the 30-day suspension notice at the Nowhere Bar and Grill.

▪ **The California Highway Patrol is investigating a fatal crash** on southbound Interstate 280 in Los Altos Hills. One person died in the crash and another suffered life-threatening injuries after a vehicle traveling the wrong way on the highway crashed into another vehicle, according to the CHP.

— Wire report

# Aerial dance sheds light on issue

*Homeless women are subject of very unique artistic performance*

By Joshua Sabatini  
S.F. Examiner Staff Writer

San Francisco's homeless residents often receive the most public attention when they become the subject of a wedge issue at City Hall. But beginning today, the challenges of homelessness are being brought to the public through a much different medium — and in the heart of the Tenderloin.

The artist behind an aerial dance performance that focuses on the story of older homeless women hopes the project will cut through some of the fatigue people have in addressing the challenges of homelessness and generate more compassion for those living on the streets.

The 30-minute production opens today and runs until Sept. 20. Already, the performance has attracted attention as passers-by have stopped to observe the dancers practicing on the side of the UC Hastings College of the Law building since August, and the more curious have read the sign nearby explaining what it is about.

The production titled "Multiple Mary and Invisible Jane" is the passion of choreographer Jo Kreiter of Flyaway Productions, a San Francisco-based apparatus dance company. She conceived of it while working on a different production two years ago from the rooftop of the Renoir Hotel on McAllister Street, also in the Tenderloin, when she would look down onto the streets below and see homeless women "scurrying in the shadows."

Kreiter noted that about 30 percent of the homeless population in San Francisco is female, and said her work in general focuses on promoting a female voice in public.

To that end, the art project uses the voices of San Francisco homeless women who were interviewed this spring telling their stories about what it's like on the streets and how they ended up without a home.

The stories vary. One woman lost her Noe Valley Victorian to foreclosure. Another suddenly had to have surgeries and could no longer work. One woman discussed how she suffered from verbal and physical abuse as a youth, turned to cocaine and spent time in jail for burglary but is now sober and housed.

The production helps put a human



MIKE KOOZMIN/THE S.F. EXAMINER

"Multiple Mary and Invisible Jane," a Flyaway Productions dance comprised of The City's homeless women, makes its debut today at UC Hastings College of the Law.

face on homelessness. And it also sheds light on what homeless-service workers say is an increasing segment of the population: seniors.

### 'THINGS HAVE GOTTEN WORSE'

Kathy Treggiari is the director of shelters for Episcopal Community Services, which operates the 334-bed Next Door shelter on Polk Street. She said seniors, those age 60 and above, are increasing in the shelter system, with 442 at Next Door in fiscal year 2012-13 compared to 484 last fiscal year.

The homeless population is diverse and ever-changing, leading to emerging challenges that require greater investment. For example, Treggiari said there is a behavioral health specialist team in city shelters, but there are only 10 people, better than the seven of a few years ago, though "we advocate for more."

Treggiari said there is an increase of those requiring more assistance. "There's definitely an increase in people who have problems self-caring," Treggiari said, which means using the bathroom or showering.

As a longtime San Francisco resident, Kreiter has seen the homeless population throughout the decades and, like many, observes that not much has changed in terms of numbers.

"I feel like nothing has changed, and I feel like things have gotten worse," Kreiter said.

That perception is supported by recent data. San Francisco's every-other-year homeless count identified 6,436 last year, of which 3,401 were on the streets without shelter, while the

other homeless people in the count resided in shelters, transitional housing, resource centers, residential treatment, jail or hospitals. In 2005, 6,248 were counted. A city report released in March found that San Francisco spends \$165.7 million on homelessness annually.

The challenges around homelessness are often hotly debated and generally only become a popular topic when they are the focus of a political wedge issue, such as when a law was proposed and adopted in 2010 to make sitting or lying on the sidewalk illegal.

Most recently, City Hall debated the issue as The City's 10-year plan to end homelessness in The City expired with a series of public meetings amid the annual budget process this past June. Since then the conversation over the issue has quieted down at City Hall. The City did boost its investment in homelessness, such as increasing the staff of the homeless outreach team and providing \$2.5 million to public housing to rehabilitate vacant units for those without homes.

In addition to promoting compassion, Kreiter hopes that the performance will "reinvigorate people already out there working on solutions." And she hoped for a "radical re-envisioning of housing in The City."

One step in that direction, she said, was if voters approve November's anti-speculation tax, Proposition G.

Kreiter said she chose the Tenderloin because it's "where the issue lives" and the walls of the buildings are the witnesses of it. "I like to think of it as what the site sees."

### THE POWER OF ART

The power of art to improve a place is becoming a belief increasingly evident in new policies and projects in San Francisco. A new public-art program treats art not as an afterthought but an integral component of development. Artwork on utility boxes transform the eyesores into accepted jewels. The man behind the Bay Bridge LED light project, Ben Davis, has plans to install LED lights above the length of Market Street to connect separated communities.

Art is also being used to help homeless cope and heal. Rev. Mary Moreno-Richardson, who leads the Guadalupe Art Program that is using art to help heal women and children who are victims of violence, runs a woman's group every Tuesday morning at the Next Door shelter. Sometimes three or four women attend, other times as many as 12. One exercise she asks them to do is "paint themselves into the divine."

"A lot of these women have been traumatized by the situation," said Richardson, who began her work at the shelter more than a year ago.

She said she was struck by how many older homeless there were and specifically older white women, a trend she suggested was related to the rising cost of living and evictions in San Francisco and the Bay Area at large.

A preview of the "Multiple Mary and Invisible Jane" performance. **Page 10**

"It's such a challenge financially for anyone," Richardson said, calling these people "the new faces of homelessness."

She explained that she has seen how vulnerable some of these women are, having money stolen or simply bullied around for being so frail — some needing walkers to get around — among a population that can include younger drug addicts and those who recently came out of jail.

Richardson suggested it would help if The City had more site-specific shelters, places only for seniors, and only for women, "so people don't feel so vulnerable."

As San Francisco's cost-of-living increases and more seniors are joining the homeless population there is also growing wealth in The City, yet some are critical of how much The City invests in social services as others call for more.

"How can we possibly think we are spending too much in a city that has so much?" Richardson said. "I think it's where we choose to put that money. What do we care about?"

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# 'Last Weekend' placid on, and below, surface

By Betsy Sharkey  
Los Angeles Times

Polite society is so often impolite it's a wonder it still retains rights to the description. Vacation retreats are not so much for relaxing as for allowing wealthy clans to catch up on old grudges, open old wounds. That is very much the case during the less-than-warm "Last Weekend," which catches the Green family at its Lake Tahoe retreat and at its worst.

Patricia Clarkson is Celia, the family matriarch and guiding force of the Greens. Husband Malcolm (Chris Mulkey) barely makes an impression. She is a woman who has everything and nothing and is now in transition — from nowhere to nowhere is my guess. The Greens are among San Francisco's new rich, having founded a fitness empire, and for years they spent summers amid Lake Tahoe's upscale naturalism.

Their boys, Theo and Roger, have grown into adult disappointments, easily recognizable stereotypes with equally stereotypical networks of friends and relationships around them.

Theo (Zachary Booth) is the artistic gay son who's brought along a new boyfriend for the Labor Day forced march ordered by Celia. Roger (Joseph Cross) is the investment-banker son who's sweating before the sun rises, having been fired due to a multimillion-dollar mistake caught just before the weekend and trying to



**REVIEW**  
**Last Weekend** ★★½

**Starring** Patricia Clarkson, Chris Mulkey

**Written by** Tom Dolby, Tom Williams

**Directed by** Tom Dolby

**Not rated**

**Running time** 1 hour, 34 minutes

beat Dad to the business pages.

Hector and Maria Castillo — Julio Oscar Mechoso and Julie Carmen, respectively — are the help. They take care of the Greens' Lake Tahoe place inside and out. As Celia puts it, they're "like family." But they're not. Even though Celia does the right thing when she's pressed by circumstances, her heart really isn't in it.

That's the trouble really with the film. Celia's heart really isn't invested in much of anything. That makes it difficult for us to feel invested in Celia, a ripple effect that does not bode well for the film.

# Taking on homeless women

By Andrea Pflaumer  
Special to The S.F. Examiner

Displaying her feminist roots and expertise in outdoor site-specific work, aerial dance artist and choreographer Jo Kreiter is tackling the issue of older homeless women in her world premiere "Multiple Mary and Invisible Jane."

Flyaway Productions founder Kreiter, who has a background in political science, raises consciousness by bringing social justice issues to the public square — literally. "Multiple Mary," a free 30-minute show which opens today, takes place on an 80-foot wall of the UC Hastings College of Law, by Civic Center. The work is inspired by "Old, Female and Homeless," a 2013 The Nation article written by Kreiter's friend Rose Aguilar.

"It used to be that homeless women over 50 were blessedly rare," Aguilar says. Today, with the aging of the population, they are now the norm among the homeless population.

Working with Aguilar, Krieter interviewed six women, most of whom simply had fallen on hard times, as the basis for "Multiple Mary."

One woman who lived in Noe Valley lost her home of 27 years after she took out a second mortgage when her husband died and was unable to repay the loan. Another worked all her life only to have her drug-addicted son deplete her resources. A third, typical of many homeless women, hit a medical crisis



MIKE KOOZMIN/S.F. EXAMINER

A dancer performs on a Tenderloin building wall in "Multiple Mary and Invisible Jane."

**IF YOU GO**  
**Flyaway Productions**

**Where:** UC Hastings College of the Law, 333 Golden Gate Ave., S.F.

**When:** 8 and 9 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, through Sept. 20, plus noon and 8 p.m. Sept. 17-18

**Tickets:** Free

**Contact:** www.flyawayproductions.com

meaningful movement can be a challenge, Kreiter hit upon one key element common among her subjects' stories — all of the women described sleeping in chairs.

"One of the pieces has dancers in chairs interpreting what it means to have to sleep sitting up," she says. "It brought this large political issue to a very concrete place."

Sampled and processed voices of the women telling their personal stories make up "Multiple Mary's" soundscape, created by composer-media artist Pamela Z.

While Kreiter hopes some of the women will attend the performances, she's not counting on it. They don't care to wear homelessness as a badge or even to be identified as homeless.

"We're trying to show how much strength they have," Kreiter says, "to portray them not as victims, but as survivors."

and ended up on the street.

"These are women who had spun through their resources and had no other safety net," Kreiter says. "My hope is to cut through compassion fatigue and help people see how close we all are to getting to a place where you have nothing."

While translating social issues into

# 'Dolphin Tale' sequel falls short, treads water

By Maricar Estrella  
Fort Worth (Texas) Star-Telegram

It's hard to top the story of how a wounded dolphin is saved by a prosthetic tail and a team of heroes.



"Dolphin Tale 2" tries to recapture the spirit of the original based-on-a-true-story film by reassembling the cast and adding a few inspirational elements. However, the sequel falls short in delivering the sentimental impact of its predecessor.

It's three years after Sawyer Nelson (Nathan Gamble) and Hazel Haskett (Cozi Zuehlsdorff) helped heal Winter, the dolphin whose tail was lost after being entangled in a crab trap. The youngsters, now older and wiser, are becoming leaders at Clearwater Marine Hospital in Florida. Sawyer trains volunteers and Hazel is following in the footsteps of her father Dr. Clay Haskett (Harry Connick Jr.).

The hospital has grown too. It's become a magnet for folks who want to see Winter. While the film reintroduces Winter at an animal show, the real-life Clearwater Marine Aquarium recently dropped shows from its expansion plan. Some of the most poignant moments of the original film is showing the real-life footage of amputees and children with disabilities who were drawn to the dolphin.

**REVIEW**  
**Dolphin Tale 2** ★★

**Starring** Nathan Gamble, Harry Connick Jr., Cozi Zuehlsdorff, Bethany Hamilton

**Written and directed by** Charles Martin Smith

**Rated** PG

**Running time** 1 hour, 48 minutes

It would seem fitting that another inspirational icon, Bethany Hamilton, the accomplished surfer who lost her left arm to a shark, would be added to this cast. But the montage of Hamilton swimming with Winter was indicative of the entire film — beautiful to watch but not emotionally satisfying.

When Winter loses her surrogate mother, the team must find a new companion or lose the dolphin to a Texas aquarium. The Haskells face a dilemma of whether to please the owner of the hospital by keeping a newly rehabilitated dolphin to attract visitors or release the dolphin to the wild.

