

COAST

REFLECTING SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

JULY 2001



WEAVING RELATIONSHIPS

By turns sensual, solemn, playful, and wittily tongue-in-cheek, *Threads*, the latest work from contemporary Los Angeles choreographer Kitty McNamee, reflects the multitude of journeys a heart must take. McNamee interweaves relationships between lovers, family and friends for a richly satisfying movement tapestry embellished with film sequences by Kenneth Hughes, designer costumes from Grant Krajecki of Grey Ant Designs and an original score by L.A.-based composer Tim Labor. Following the successful premiere last year of *Noir*, McNamee and her Hysterica Dance Company will pay a return visit to the John Anson Ford Amphitheater this month with the evening length premiere of *Threads* as part of the Summer At The Ford performance series.

A former modern dancer with a flair for theatre and a yen for vintage films, McNamee's elegant yet edgy aesthetic – influenced by ballet, jazz, and today's vibrant pop culture – strives to capture the essence of the drama, grace, pathos, isolation and, at times, raw ugliness of the old movies she loves. These elements are refracted in her work in wonderfully modern yet ultimately

classic and human ways. For her, the truth has always lain in exploring the psychology behind the physical – not just the how-tos but the whys of movement. Hence, *Threads*, which began as an interactive snapshot of family relations, then grew to encompass a whole album of human connections.

"The family idea became too restrictive for me; I felt bogged down in the past. So I decided to look forward, into exploring relationships, especially romantic relationships, which I love to do," says McNamee, sitting down for a moment during a recent run-through of *Threads* in

Bella Lewitzky's old rehearsal studio, high in the hills above Studio City.

Threads, says McNamee, has been a difficult yet ultimately rewarding collaborative process, a creative collaboration that has asked Labor, Hughes and the Hysterica dancers to toss their own sense of relationships into the mix. "Some of the dancers didn't want to go there at all because of their own family dynamics," explains McNamee. "But in the end, I think everyone has grown from the experience."

Hysterica Dance Co. premieres Threads at the John Anson Ford Amphitheater, located at 2580 Cahuenga Blvd. East in Hollywood, as part of Summer Nights At The Ford on July 15 at 8 p.m. For tickets and information call (323) GO-1-FORD (461-3673). – Pamela Diamond ■

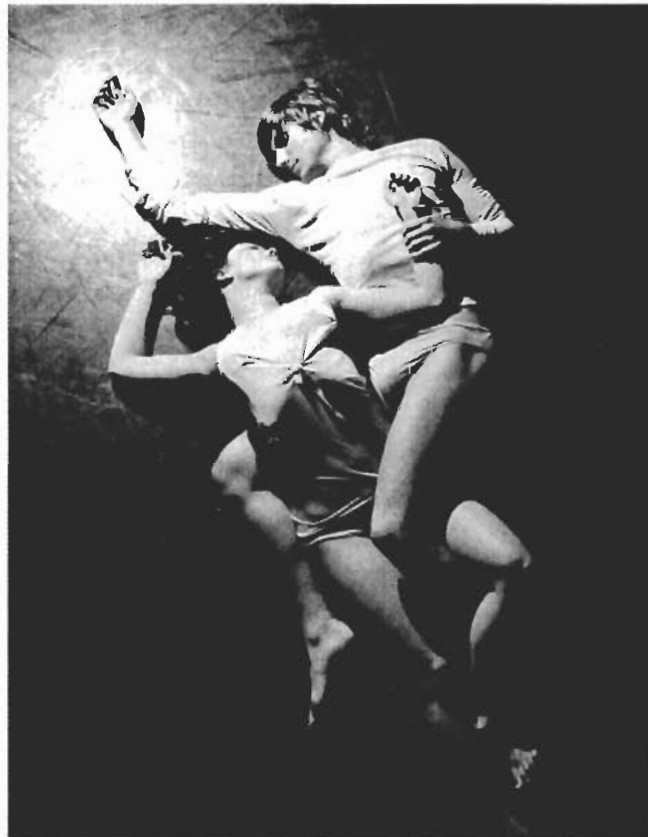


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