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## Beyond the Threshold festival lets dance break out in South Lake Union

By Michael Upchurch  
Seattle Times arts writer

Dancers on stage! Dancers on film! Dancers in the streets! — or on the sidewalk, anyway.

This year's Seattle International Dance Festival/Beyond the Threshold promises to be a lively and varied affair. It marks the first time the festival has partnered with Cornish College of the Arts. And it firmly establishes the festival as a South Lake Union event, with indoor performances at Cornish's Denny Triangle campus and outdoor activities unfolding along Westlake Avenue.

Dance fans can get a free sampling of it Friday at 2200 Westlake Plaza (outside Whole Foods). Free activities continue noon-6 p.m. Saturday with "Art on the Fly," featuring 14-foot-tall dancing puppets (BQdanza from Ecuador/Tacoma), a slow-motion geisha parade (Seattle's Kogut Butoh/Joan Laage, taking an hour to walk one block — and another hour to get back), a game of "Team Twister" aimed at kids and a dozen more acts.

The Seattle Streetcar will "trigger" some of these events on a three-block stretch of Westlake, creating "a flash point of dance happenings from the languorous to the fleeting."

Organizer/sponsor Cyrus Khambatta notes that in just five years the festival has expanded from three days to 10. It encompasses striking international talent, while also surveying the local dance scene.

Out-of-towners include Compagnie Prototype Status (Switzerland/Italy) whose "Frozen" and "Caso & Chaos" feature exquisitely controlled slow-motion progressions on a sand-strewn stage; Rainbow Dance Theatre, helmed by Darryl Thomas (formerly of Pilobolus) and Valerie Bergman, who devise elaborate illusory effects; and maika misumi movement troupe [m3t], of Japan, delivering lithe, powerful moves to an electronic score.

The question Khambatta put to all these visitors wasn't "What can we pick from your repertoire?" but "What's rumbling



CHARLIE SCHUCK

Khambatta Dance Company, led by Cyrus Khambatta, top left, will showcase a variety of works — including a new piece, "Le Fin" — at Seattle International Dance Festival/Beyond the Threshold.

### Performance preview Beyond the Threshold

- "Art on the Fly" outdoor dance, 11:30-1 p.m. Friday and noon-6 p.m. Saturday, near 2200 Westlake Plaza, Seattle, free.
- International Artist Series: Compagnie Prototype Status, Selfick Ng-Simancas and Khambatta Dance Company, 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 7 p.m. Sunday, and Rainbow Dance Theatre and maika misumi movement troupe [m3t], 8 p.m. June 11-12, 7 p.m. June 13.
- Spotlight on Seattle, 7:30 p.m. June 8 (curated by Eva Stone), June 9 (Pat Graney) and June 10 (Donald Byrd). International/Seattle shows at Raisbeck Hall, Cornish College of the Arts, 2015 Boren Ave., Seattle; \$14-\$20 per show, \$45 for 5-event pass (info: [www.thresholdfestival.org](http://www.thresholdfestival.org); tickets: 800-838-3006 or [www.brownpapertickets.com/event/105672](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/105672)).

nderneath? What would you present, ideally?"

Khambatta's own troupe, the Khambatta Dance Company, (formerly Phfff! Dance Company; the name change was prompted in part by people's difficulty spelling it, a real dilemma in the Internet age), will showcase a variety of works, including a new piece, "Le Fin," described as "a farcical character-laden, theatrical traipse" with extravagant costumes, concerning "the death of flies" and "a scientific prediction that the universe will one day just rip in half."

The three-night survey of the Seattle scene, curated by Donald Byrd, Pat Graney and Eva Stone, includes more pieces by Khambatta's troupe, plus work by 15 other companies. Among the best-known names are Coriolis Dance Collective, Mark Haim, Stone Dance Collective, Degenerate Art Ensemble and Spectrum Dance Theater (doing a spare, sublime Merce Cunningham-inspired piece by Byrd called "The Possibility of Not Being"). Emerging talents — Michael Rioux, Ezra Dickinson, Lizzy Melton — should provide the wild-card factor.

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