

# Vintage Point

Geber & Handman combine dance, film.

**M**odern dance balances atop a rock-solid historical foundation, but a large part of what keeps the art form "modern" is the choreographers' ability to flow with time and continually reinvent concepts within the genre.

Eugene audiences will have an opportunity to see this kind of innovation in action when dancer-choreographers Pamela Geber and Eric Handman perform at the UO Friday and Saturday. The two taught in Eugene in the past and are now assistant professors at the University of Utah. Handman and Geber offer up dance compositions stripped down to their essential parts and rebuilt by highlighting the movements' most important aspects.

"Palpate: An Evening of Dance and Film" will incorporate solo performances, dance video and a duet, including works by internationally recognized choreographers Sara Rudner and David Dorfman.

Handman utilizes film, or "dance for the camera" in two of the program's six pieces, but he says incorporating film into live dance performances is not a necessity in keeping up with the times.

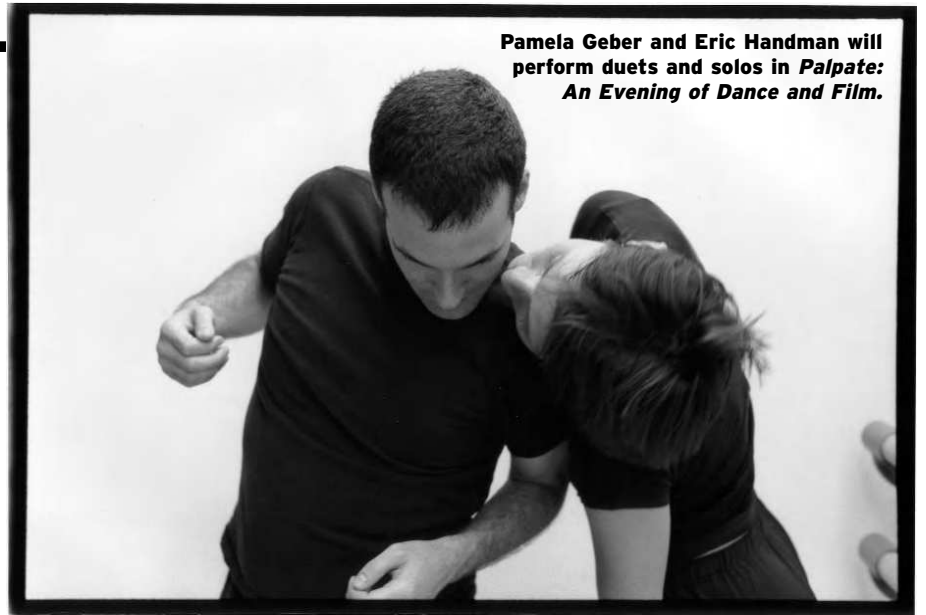
"I can't talk about dance in general," he says. "I don't believe it needs to be faddish. It's up to each artist how much they want to be interfacing with technology."

However, Handman adds that for him, dance for the camera lends a whole new dimension to choreography. "As a performer, I have a hard time being an audience member," he says, referring to a seated onlooker's limited vantage point. "The camera and editing allows me to have a much more mobile point of view." Handman acknowledges that video might lack the intimacy of a live performance, but says the benefits of multiple angles are often well worth the trade-off.

Geber says all parts of "Palpate" stand out, whether they focus on video or live performers. "The pieces are pretty distinct," she says. "Both Eric and I are really steeped in the post-modern philosophy aesthetic."

She adds that the secret to keeping this type of choreography fresh is not to create cumbersome characters, but instead invent situations for the dancers themselves to move within. "I like it to be about them in this context," she says. "It's about what's essential to create this mood ... It's not about ornamentation."

"Palpate: An Evening of Dance and Film" will take place Friday and Saturday at 8 pm at the UO's Dougherty Dance Theatre. Tickets are \$5 to \$10, available at the door. **EW**



Pamela Geber and Eric Handman will perform duets and solos in *Palpate: An Evening of Dance and Film*.

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