

New window on the world of dance

LIVE CHOREOGRAPHY IN SIMONS STOREFRONT

Event takes 'dance to the people instead of waiting for the people to come to us'

KATHRYN GREENAWAY
THE GAZETTE

No doubt there'll be some double takes in front of the department store La Maison Simons downtown, beginning today.

Store mannequins will be replaced by living, breathing contemporary dancers who will perform in two storefront windows on the corner of Mansfield and

Ste. Catherine Sts. during regular business hours, until Sunday.

The event - called *Le projet Vitrines* - is the creation of fledgling production company *La 2e porte à gauche*.

"We approached the store with the idea just before the holidays and they were keen," dancer and organizer Karine Cloutier said.

Cloutier and 60 other members of *Motivreal's* new genera-

tion of contemporary dancers want to expose new audiences to contemporary dance.

"So we decided to take the dance to the people instead of waiting for the people to come to us," Cloutier said.

Each day is divided into different performance blocks. Depending when you pass by, you could see a prepared choreography, a structured improvisation, a choreographer creating on the spot or a solo performed by a string of interpreters in a continuing loop.

"It will be a moving audience as opposed to a captive audience," Cloutier said. "I'll be fas-

cinated to see people's reactions when they stumble across a bit of dance in the course of their daily lives."

Cloutier will alternate dancing two solos with Amélie Bédard-Gagnon. The solos were choreographed for the long, narrow window space by Marie-Ève Albert and Normand Marcy. Marcy will work with Julie Châteauvert to capture performances on video and edit a compilation of the highlights to be played on a loop in a third storefront window after hours.

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An exhibit of photographs by photographer and choreographer Marie-Josée Lareau will share the third window.

More to watch for in the windows of La Maison Simons:

◆ Choreographer Marie Béland takes on the challenge of creating solos and duos on the spot - moving back and forth between windows to rehearse her new moves with various combinations of dancers.

◆ A group of 20 dancers will take cues from Cloutier during extended improvisation sessions.

◆ And choreographer Frédéric Gravel has created a brief solo to

be performed by a chain of dancers - one after another - without interruption. The number of times the solo is performed will be tabulated on a chalkboard.

Le projet Vitrines is at La Maison Simons, corner Mansfield and Ste. Catherine Sts., during regular hours (today and tomorrow from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursday and Friday to 9 p.m., Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m.) through Sunday. Go to www.la2eporteagauche.ca

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