

STAGE

Audio, Visual & Physical

Dance program offers feast for the senses.

BY GREG WYSHYNSKI
THE CONNECTION

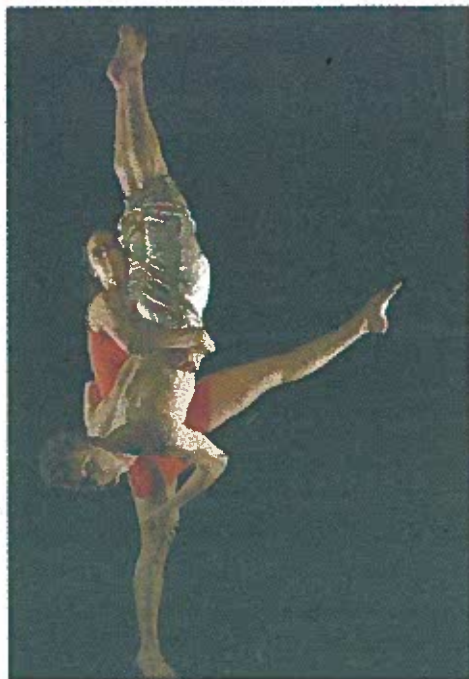
Jane Franklin has sought to incorporate multimedia into her dance company's performances over the last several years. "I like to collaborate with people. There's a lot of digital stuff people are doing now...it's a lot of fun," she said.

Such collaboration will occur at "Sound Walk," the new Jane Franklin Dance production scheduled to be held at the Schlesinger Center on March 1 at 8 p.m. One segment of the show, titled "In Hiding," will feature fabric panels with images projected on them.

"If you think about the old 'Pink Panther' movies at the beginning, when they roll the credits and those squares and such rolling around, it's that kind of animation," she said.

But rather than a simple background for the action, Franklin said that the dancers will interact with the images.

"The dancers actually pass between the



Jane Franklin Dance in motion.

Where & When

Jane Franklin Dance presents "Sound Walk" on **Saturday, March 1** at 8 p.m. at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, 3001 N. Beauregard St. in Alexandria. Call 703-933-1111 or visit www.janefranklin.com.

light of the projector — sometimes there's the shadow of a human dancer in with the shapes," said Franklin.

The goal is to move the digital visual components of the performance into the middle of the space rather than existing in the background, so there's interaction between dancers and images, she said.

"**IN HIDING**" is one of four different segments in the program at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, Northern Virginia Community College Alexandria Campus, 3001 N. Beauregard St.

"Sound Walk" uses sounds from community workshops facilitated by Jane Franklin Dance, a Northern Virginia company that's dedicated to making dance available to a wide range of audiences. Composer Gina

Biver used this ambient sound — chaotic resonance, echoing footsteps, varied languages — as the basis for her musical accompaniment to Franklin's dancers.

Biver is behind an intense piece called "Hand Hold," which features rhythmic duo marimbas performed by Brianne Barrow Little and guest artist Flourian Rouiller. "It's about the intensity of our lives, and that non-stop rush in which we live," said Biver, whose Web site is www.ginabiver.com.

"Branch" is a piece performed by the NOVA String Quartet, and spans the emotional range of Shostakovich String Quartet #8.

Tickets for the show are \$30 for general admission, \$27 for students and seniors, and \$16 for children 12 and under. Call 703-933-1111 or 703-298-3235 for more information, or visit www.janefranklin.com.

ON SATURDAY, March 8 at the Ainslie Arts Center, Episcopal High School, 3900 W. Braddock Road, in Alexandria, Jane Franklin Dance will hold its Youth Dance Festival from 8:30 a.m. through the end of that evening's dance performance.

The Youth Dance Festival offers a workshop for young dancers, ages 8-13 and ages 14 and above. Classes include ballet, jazz, modern, choreography and hip-hop. Enrollment is \$40; visit www.janefranklin.com for more information.