

The complete weekly entertainment guide

August 14-21, 1996 Issue No. 47 \$1.95

Time Out

New York

Eat to the beep
The nitty-gritty
on sidewalk cafés

Fight the power
Facing off with Rage
Against the Machine

Make 'em laugh
A consumer's
guide to clowns



PLAY IT
AGAIN,
JOHN

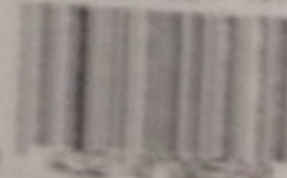
Leguizamo is up to his old tricks in *The*

SPEEDIMPEX USA, INC.

TIME OUT NY

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where stars are born every week. Okay, slight exaggeration. But it is a thrifty night out.

WEDNESDAY 21

Man at Work See Wed 14.

Stand-up Clubs

Show times vary and lineups are subject to change. It is advisable to call ahead.

Boston Comedy Club 82 W 3rd St between Thompson and Sullivan Sts (477-1000). Subway: A, C, E, B, D, F, Q to W 4th St. Sun, Tue-Thu at 9:30pm; \$5, two-drink minimum. Fri, Sat at 8, 10pm, 12:15am. \$10, two-drink minimum; except open mike \$7, one-drink minimum. • Wed 14 and Wed 21: The Freak Show, hosted by D.C. Benny.

Caroline's Comedy Club 1626 Broadway between 49th and 50th Sts (757-4100). Subway: C, E, 1, 9 to 50th St; B, D, E to Seventh Ave; N, R to 49th St. Sun-Thu at 8, 10:30pm; \$12-\$15, two-drink minimum. Fri at 8, 11pm; Sat at 8, 10:30pm. \$15-\$17, two-drink minimum. • Wed 14: Hot 97's Phat Comedy. Thu 15: New York Ladies with Julie Halston. Wed 21: John Fugelsang.

Catch a Rising Star 253 W 28th St between Seventh and Eighth Aves (244-3005). Subway: 1, 9 to 28th St. Mon at 8:30pm; Tue-Thu at 9pm. \$8, two-item minimum. Fri, Sat at 9, 11:30pm. \$12.50, two-item minimum. • Wed 14: Gary Valentine, Don McMillan, Jeffrey Ross and Gregg Rogell. Thu 15: The Loit, a Seinfeldian alternative-comedy revue. Fri 16, Sat 17: Eddie Brill, Jim David and Craig Anton.

Comedy Cellar 117 MacDougal St between W 3rd and Bleeker Sts (254-3480). Subway: A, C, E, B, D, F, Q to W 4th St. Sun-Thu at 9pm; \$5, two-drink minimum. Fri at 9, 11pm; Sat at 9, 10:45pm, 12:30am. \$10, two-drink minimum. • Wed 14-Sun 18: Dave Attell, Gregg Rogell, Wanda Sykes-Hall, Tony Woods and Rick Crom.

Comic Strip 1568 Second Ave between 81st and 82nd Sts (861-9386). Subway: 4, 5, 6 to 86th St. Sun at 8pm. Mon-Thu at 8:30pm; \$8, two-drink minimum. Fri at 8:30, 10:30pm; Sat at 8, 10:15pm, 12:30am. \$12, two-drink minimum.

Dangerfield's 1118 First Ave between 61st and 62nd Sts (593-1650). Subway: 4, 5, 6 to 59th St; N, R to Lexington Ave. Sun-Thu at 8:45pm, \$12.50. Fri at 9, 11:15pm; Sat at 8, 10:30pm, 12:30am. \$15. • Wed 14-Sun 18: Tony Powell, Brian McFadden, Billy Jaye, Lenny Varnedoe and Quentin Heggs.

Gladys's Comedy Room Hamburger Harry's, 145 W 45th St between Broadway and Sixth Ave (832-1762). Subway: A, C, E, B, D, F, Q, N, R, 1, 2, 3, 9 to 42nd St. Wed at 8:30pm, \$6. Fri, Sat at 8:30pm. \$8, \$5 table minimum. (If you mention TONY, the price is two for \$12.)

Gotham Comedy Club 34 W 22nd St between Fifth and Sixth Aves (367-9000). Subway: F, N, R, 1, 9 to 23rd St. Sun-Thu at 8:30pm; \$8, two-drink minimum. Fri, Sat at 7, 9, 11:30pm; \$12, two-drink minimum. • Fri 16, Sat 17: Tony Powell, Eddie Brill, Marci Rose and D.C. Benny.

New York Comedy Club 241 E 24th St between Second and Third Aves (696-5233). Subway: 6 to 23rd St. Sun at 8pm. Mon-Thu at 9pm. \$5, two-drink minimum. Fri at 9, 11pm; Sat at 8, 10pm, midnight. \$10, two-drink minimum.

The Original Improv 433 W 34th St between Ninth and Tenth Aves (279-3446). Subway: A, C, E to 34th St. Thu at 9pm; Fri, Sat at 8:30, 10:30pm. \$10, \$9 minimum. Regulars include Jim Gaffigan and Sandy Marx.

Stand-Up NY 236 W 78th St at Broadway (595-0850). Subway: 1, 9 to 79th St. Sun-Thu at 9pm; \$7, two-drink minimum. Fri at 7, 9, 11pm; Sat at 7, 9:30, 11:30pm. \$12, two-drink minimum. • Fri 16, Sat 17: Melvin George, Rick Crom and J.R. Havlin.

Uptown Comedy Club 2290 Ticellth Ave at 131st St (283-8703 or 718-402-9798). Subway: 1, 9 to 124th St. Mon, Wed-Fri, Sun at 9pm; \$10, free with pass, two-drink minimum. Uptown is closed for renovations, and their shows are held at various locations. Call for details.

DANCE

Preview

MAIDA STEEL

Maida Withers depicts primitive terrain

When choreographer Maida Withers drives to Utah, New Mexico or Arizona to "live on the earth," she means it. No showers, no clean clothes (dancers can sympathize with that), no hotel. Just a sleeping bag. "I was curious to see what the power of the land was," she says. "It's not just that the landscape's pretty; there's something very powerful, and I think it's the fact that it's uninhabited. People pass through, but you can't just live there in general. You have to live where there's water."

The Southwest is the subject of Withers's latest project, a series of site-specific pieces called *Utah* Spirit Place* Spirit Planet* Tukuhihi-vatz*, a part of the Lincoln Center Out-of-Doors Festival. Along with performers dancing onstage, video footage of dancers atop mountains will be shown on 16-foot screens.

"I think people always have gone to nature to restore some power within themselves," Withers says. "This land has a very strong spiritual presence. When you're there, you know you're participating in something healing and pretty powerful. And it's exotic, too. As we stand on top of those cliffs and dance, sometimes there's a straight drop of 2,000 feet."

Utah Spirit Place* features eight principal dancers and eight supporting dancers. The latter serve as spirit figures (two of them walk on stilts) representing the rock-art Withers discovered inscribed on the sides of the mountains. Five dancers appear on video, and an ensemble of musicians led by Brent Michael Davids play unconventional instruments, including a crystal quartz flute, and Davids speaks in Native American languages.

The dancers are in constant action, pushing the boundaries of pure physical dance, but Withers says

the piece is an exploration of spirituality. "The work is about a transformation that I feel our consciousness of the earth has brought about, in that we know that our behavior as a human species is jeopardizing our continuation. And not on a negative level but on some profound positive level, we're realizing our potential. We can change and do things in a better and different way. So the work is really about beauty—a reconnection of our more ancient self with our future self."

Withers was raised in Kanab, Utah, where her family has lived for six generations. During the 1898 Colorado River gold rush, her great uncle Dave Rust and grandfather William Rust developed tourism in southern Utah. Phantom Ranch in the Grand Canyon was originally called Rust Camp until the federal government confiscated it, designating it a national park in 1918. "My childhood was spent on these land sites," Withers says. "What took me back there was the thought, How could my family have possibly survived on this barren but magnificent earth?"

Although she wasn't exposed to a lot of dance in Utah, as a child she studied tap and took a class that included acrobatics, jazz and ballet. Her modern training didn't begin until college at Brigham Young University and Connecticut College, where she met Martha Graham, Merce Cunningham and later, in Germany, Mary Wigman. She has never, however, danced in another choreographer's company. "My own instincts were always strong as a creative and performing artist."

Based in Washington D.C., where she is a professor in the dance department at George Washington University, Withers still dances. At 58, she has no plans to give it up: "I laugh sometimes; I have a lot of documentation of my work, and I'm always thinking, When I'm 90 years old in the old-folks home, I can look back and watch my videos! Dancing seems quite easy for me. I don't have any pain or struggle; I don't have any problems. Someone asked me, 'How can you keep dancing?' but I think it's easy. I dance every day. Dance gives you so much life and so much power. Just the moving alone brings a more dynamic life to me. Until I can't do it, I plan to."—Gla Kourlas

Maida Withers Dance Construction Company performs at Lincoln Center Out-of-Doors Festival Tuesday 20.



Submit information by mail or fax (673-8382) to Gla Kourlas. Include details of venues, dates, times, prices, telephone numbers and nearest subways. Deadline is Monday, nine days before publication. Listings information will not be accepted over the telephone.

Performances

WEDNESDAY 14

At Odds: A Collection of Peculiar Works Vineyard's 26th Street Theatre, 309 E 26th St at Second Ave (529-3626, ext 100). Subway: 6 to 28th St. 7pm, \$12. Peculiar Works Project presents four plays that include music, dance, poetry, film, video and visual art. Tonight is *Be Silent, Be Still*, which features the work of director/choreographer Elaine Molinaro and composer Arianna DeSano. The piece tells the story of Hildegard von Bingen, a 12th-century nun and writer; Lucy Stone, a 19th-century women's rights advocate; and Madeline Kunin, a 20th-century politician.

Dallas Black Dance Theatre Lincoln Center's Damrosch Park, 62nd St at Amsterdam Ave (875-5108). Subway: 1, 9 to 66th St-Lincoln Center. 8:15pm. The 26th annual Lincoln Center Out-of-Doors Festival presents the New York debut of this Dallas troupe.

Feld Ballets/NY Joyce Theater, 175 Eighth Ave at 19th St (242-0800). Subway: 1, 9 to 18th St. 8pm; \$30, children under 12 at matinee performances \$15. Eliot Feld's company presents his annual summer program at the Joyce. Featured are four previews: *Yo Shakespeare, Industry, Shuffle* and *Evening Chant*. Tonight's program: *Shuffle, Echo, Gnossiennes, Yo Shakespeare, Industry* and *Evening Chant*.

Jacob's Pillow George Carter Rd at Rte 20, Becket, MA (413-243-0745). Travel: Bonanza bus from Port Authority to Lee, MA. Take a taxi to Jacob's Pillow. 7pm. Jazz workshop. 8:30pm, \$38. Hubbard Street Dance Chicago presents *Perpetuum Mobile, Quartet for IV* (and sometimes one, two or three) and *The Golden Section*.

Pilar Rioja Repertorio Español's Gramercy Arts Theatre, 138 E 27th St between Lexington and Third Aves (889-2850). Subway: 6 to 28th St. 7pm; \$35, \$30, \$20. Legendary Spanish dancer Rioja returns for her 24th New York season, which runs through Sept 22, and presents the following world premieres: *Oriental*, set to music by Enrique Granados; *Oracion del Torero* ("Bullfighters Prayer"); and *El Tablao*, a flamenco rumba dance. She'll also perform repertory works *Garrocin, Tener la Esperanza Muerta, Guajira* and *Taranta*.

Women Centerstage The Salon, 432 E 91st St between First and York Aves, second floor (426-5800). Subway: 4, 5, 6 to 86th St. 8pm. \$12. Lorelei Bayne and Darla Stanley present a blend of dance, theater and computer animation in *Redweb*. Performers include Jon Stark and Phyllis Whitehouse.

THURSDAY 15

Alvin Ailey American Dance Center 211 W 61st St between Tenth and Eleventh Aves (767-0940). Subway: A, C, B, D, 1, 9 to 59th St-Columbus Circle. 8pm; benefit \$25. The Ailey Dance Center presents three studio performances.

At Odds: A Collection of Peculiar Works 8pm. See Wed 14. Tonight: *Freiheit Makes a Stand*, a black comedy based on Shakespeare's *Coriolanus*, which features direction by Barry Rowell and choreography by Clare Maxwell. Runs through Sept 1.

Dallas Black Dance Theatre 10:30am (Just for Kids at Fountain Plaza), 8:15pm. See Wed 14.

Feld Ballets/NY 8pm. See Wed 14. Program: *Shuffle, Echo, Gnossiennes, Yo Shakespeare, Industry* and *Evening Chant*.

Jacob's Pillow See Wed 14. 7pm. "Sounds in Motion: Dianne McIntyre Choreographs to Jazz Music," a lecture by Veta Goler. 7pm. David Grenke. 8pm, \$12: Jazzdance with Danny Buraczeski presents *Fuerza Viva, Points on a Curve, Lost Life (Four Scenes from the Life of Art Pepper)* and *Swing Concerto*. 8:30pm, \$38: Hubbard Street Dance Chicago