

DANCE



Say it closer, tiny dancer.

PICK OF THE WEEK COMPAGNIE MULLERAS: *MINI@TURES*

French choreographers Magali and Didier Mulleras have been busy running a company and dance center since the mid-1980s, but the dynamic (married) duo didn't really seem to hit their stride until the late 1990s, when they began to explore the interplay of real and virtual, human body and graphic image. True, those strides were barely centimeters long, made by *verrry* tiny dancers inhabiting a strange little world of Web films, but the world itself has proved limitless. In Mulleras-land, teeny-weeny figures gamely execute all sorts of wee dances, oblivious to the absurdist circumstances that intersect their motion: brightly colored balls that bounce off limbs, toy cars that weave between legs mid-arabesque, Op Art backdrops that ripple with the slightest movement. Then there's that giant Monty Python-esque hand creating all sorts of deus ex machina havoc — sometimes offering a coat or gently yanking the arm of a dancer, other times shuffling the troupe around the screen like a deck of cards. While the Web site (www.mulleras.com) spouts off about surpassing the subjugation of known modes of representation, the five-year project achieves its conceptual goals by delighting with whimsical buffoonery. Even better, in addition to totaling up an archive of 100 very short films, *mini@tures* has also migrated from the online realm to good, old-fashioned theater stages. On this side of the digital divide, four gravity-prone dancers still navigate the caprices of metamorphic, interactive video imagery to shake up and ultimately dislocate our perception of what's real — but on a much grander scale. The result, woven into a seamless evening that has its U.S. debut this week, is mesmerizing. At Skirball Cultural Center, Cotsen Auditorium, 2701 N. Sepulveda Blvd.; Wed.-Thurs., Sept. 17-18, 8 p.m.; \$20-\$10. (310) 655-8587.

—Sara Wolf

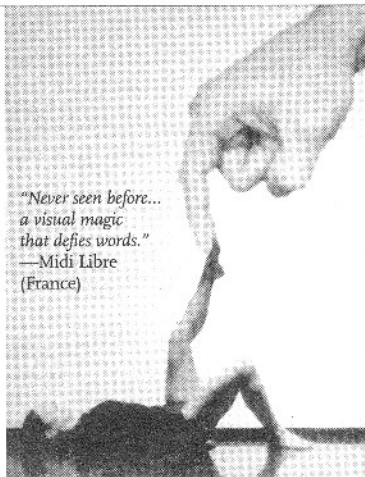
Dance at the Skirball

COMPAGNIE MULLERAS *mini@tures*

Wednesday, September 17 & Thursday, September 18, 8:00 p.m.
\$20 General • \$15 Skirball and DRC Members • \$10 Students
Advance Tickets: (323) 655-8587

U.S. premiere! Magali and Didier Mulleras of France have created a series of small dance performances that honor life's mythic and fantastic moments with humor and intelligence. *mini@tures* mixes dance, visual arts, video, and theater, pushing the boundaries between the virtual and the real.

Zeidler's Café will remain open until the program begins.
For reservations: (310) 440-4515



"Never seen before...
a visual magic
that defies words."
—Midi Libre
(France)