

(arts)

WARM WATER

FOUR MONTREAL CHOREOGRAPHERS PISS IN THE POOL

PHILIP SZPORER

dance

It's party time this St-Jean weekend. Why not make it a pool party? *Piss in the Pool* takes four up-and-coming choreographers and plunges them into the deep end of production innovation. Bain St-Michel, on the corner of St-Dominique and Maguire, is the pool venue, and there's the promise of ushers in bikinis, an MC who will direct the audience with a lifeguard whistle, and lots of dance.

Namchi Bazar, Sasha Kleinplatz, Dana Michel and Andrew Tay were drawn to the atmosphere of the unusual space. Each choreographer essentially prepped, hit the space, had three hours to be creative there, and then, paf, it's showtime. The quick turnaround fuelled the process: "Usually with a show, there's so much buildup and tension. With this there's less pressure, less tension, and time to have some fun," says Kleinplatz.

What draws these new dance artists together isn't only their alma mater – Concordia U's contemporary dance department – but a real desire to throw themselves into something new and different. Bazar's self-described "borderline



funny" piece draws inspiration from hippy relics in San Francisco's alternative hub

Haight-Ashbury. "I wanted to explore the sense of freedom outside the law," she says. Kleinplatz is inspired by the '70s, the Ramones and rock concerts. "I'm playing with stereotypical rockin' out, and what's cool. I don't find cool intimidating. I find cool endearing."

Tay is creating a choreographed duet, working with the idea of being lost and coming to some realization of the other, while Michel, who's just come off of a Fringe date that had people buzzing, is playing with the idea of falling and lightness. All of them are in awe before a body in motion. "The body rules, not just the concept," says Kleinplatz.

There's less confidence in the future. Dance's increasingly precarious economy is creating a scary time for young choreographers, says Bazar – instead of doors opening, things are shutting down. The latest fatality is Tangente, a venue of choice for choreographers of their rank, which had its upcoming season cut by half. Kleinplatz sees an alternative to the woes: "I just wanted to do something very *laissez-faire* – no future, just now – and be as vital as possible."

And if their creative approach is any indication, you'll be hearing a lot more from these four. *Piss in the pool*? We've all felt like it. C'mon, let yourself go. (•)

ARTFUL WATERSPORTS

PISS IN THE POOL

AT BAIN ST-MICHEL, JUNE 24-25