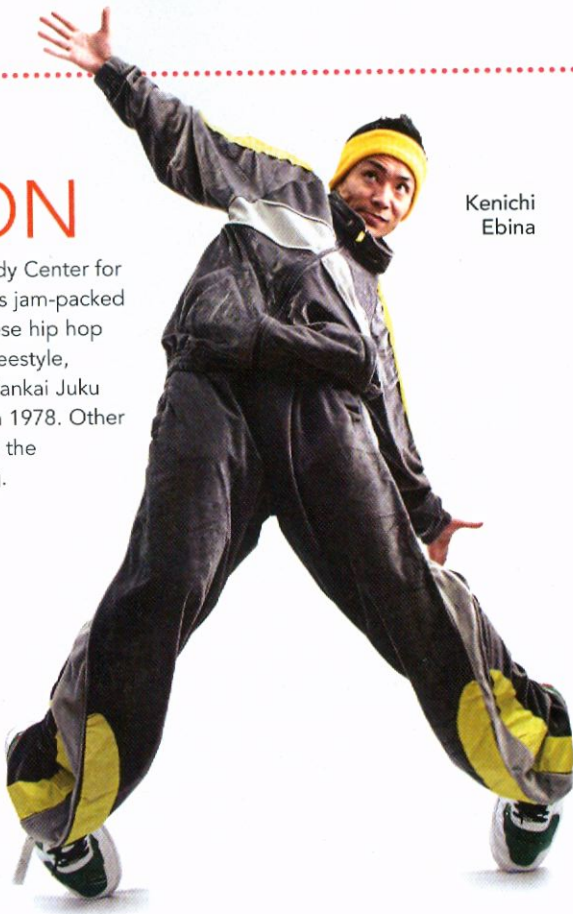


ASIAN SENSATION

This month, Japanese dance—in all forms—comes to the Kennedy Center for a festival called Japan! culture + hyperculture. The 13-day affair is jam-packed with 32 different events. Kenichi Ebina, founder of the all-Japanese hip hop group BiTriP, will give a sampling of his flavor of pop and lock, freestyle, mime, and house. On Feb. 12 and 13, legendary butoh troupe Sankai Juku revives *Kinkan Shonen* ("The Kumquat Seed"), originally made in 1978. Other groups include the New National Theatre Ballet from Tokyo, and the Mansaku-no-Kai Kyogen Company. See www.kennedy-center.org.

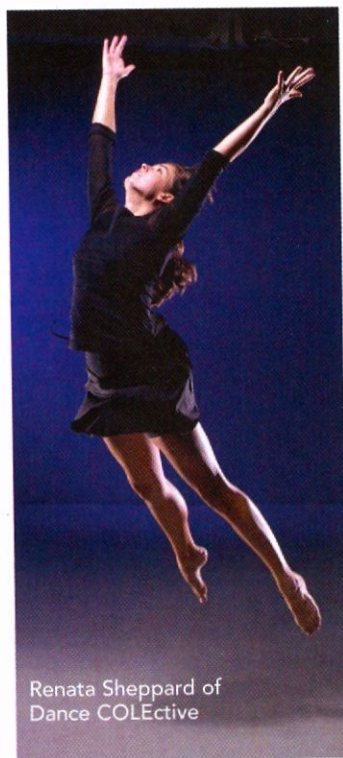
Kenichi Ebina



Courtesy the Kennedy Center

COLEctive THOUGHTS

The Dance COLEctive is taking a cue from Martha Graham with *Written on the Body*. Graham's *Deaths and Entrances* (1943) was inspired by the Brontë sisters, and artistic director Margi Cole is using them as well as a point of departure for her work about gender roles. The Chicago-based troupe will also perform *It Is Okay to Leave* by Colleen Halloran; *Channel*, a commissioned solo for Cole by Ellie Klopp; and *at the receding edges*, Jennifer Kayle's work set on four squares of plastic grass. Feb. 21–23, The Dance Center of Columbia College Chicago. See www.dancecollective.com and www.colum.edu/dancecenter.



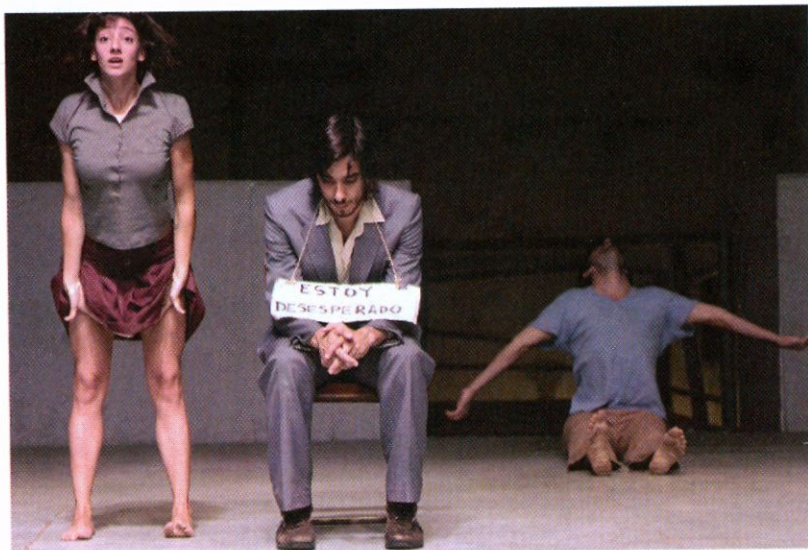
Renata Sheppard of Dance COLEctive

William Frederick, Courtesy The Dance Center

VITAL STAT John Jasperse used **2,000 hangers** to create a suspended set for his work, *Misuse liable to prosecution*, at BAM. Total cost for the set, costumes, and props? **\$163.55.**

Northern Exposure

Alaska, says Argentinean choreographer Diana Szeinblum, is a place we all recognize but many have never been. In her latest evening-length work, *Alaska*, the Pina Bausch protégée dares to take us there. Through a series of strange and poetic scenarios, set to live music, four dancers thrash, twist, and grip their way through bleak isolation, bodies rife with rebellion. Feb. 7–9 in NYC, Feb. 15–16 in Miami, and Feb. 20–23, L.A. See www.dtw.org, www.tigertail.org, and www.redcat.org.



Jarmin Tesone, Courtesy Tigertail