

# RDT's *Elements*

October 3, 2009

## **Elements (Earth, Air, Fire, & Water)**

The Elements have come full circle. Since humankind's earliest years, alchemists have seen our planet's fundamental essences as "earth, air, fire, and water".

One of our dancers wrote an article for RDT's newsletter on Elements. She describes it so well that I wanted to share it with you for an inside glimpse of a dancers view of our performance.

Dancers Column  
By M. Colleen Hoelscher

Modern dancers love to use props. They use balls, boxes, boots, blankets, balloons, bricks, etc. Truly, anything can be used as a prop to enhance a piece. The prop can be used to highlight the intention of the piece, the mood of the piece, or the story line of the piece. It can be for fun or for visual stimulation. Props spur our creative sense of ingenuity and design while also granting the audience a different avenue of exploration into the dance. However, using props can be a tricky negotiation. Certain questions are raised: When does a prop take over the piece and dwarf the dancing? When does the prop simply enhance the dancing and bring it to a more idyllic level? That being said, Repertory Dance Theatre's concert "Elements (Earth, Air, Fire, Water)" October 1<sup>st</sup> thru 3<sup>rd</sup> has an eclectic mix of props and backdrops to delight the senses.

**Paul Sanasardo's piece "Earth"** uses large cylindrical columns hung from the rafters so that the dancers can swing the poles back and forth across the stage like a clock pendulum. This piece has been described as the evolution of man's technology. Using such a large prop creates grandeur and is a constant reminder of how small the human body is compared to the objects technology has allowed us to create.

**Ze'eva Cohen's piece "Rainwood"** uses two color drenched paintings and projects them onto the backdrop. The two paintings slowly converge together like a kaleidoscope creating new configurations of pathways, shapes and colors. However, it is done so slowly that the eye barely notices the constant change. The emulsion of the rich forest colors helps direct the mood of the dance.

**Francie Lloyd's piece "The Lady of the Lake"** uses a 72 gallon tub of water. The dancer not only uses the water but the tub itself to design space, location, story and myth. The location of the water inside the tub versus outside the tub propels the piece's meaning.

**The introduction of the Green Map® project featuring Zvi Gotheiner's** choreography uses symbols projected on the backdrop to illustrate how a simple image can be more powerful than words. Can a symbol portray multiple emotions, ideas, and meanings? Symbols can bring about discussions on issues surrounding language, gesture, description, and communication.

## Elements—continued

And finally, **Eric Handman’s piece “Ghost Ship”** uses 120 pounds of falling white rice. The rice creates an illuminating waterfall cascading down onto the stage as the dancers thrash and slide through the small grains giving rise to a stunning visual image.

All in all, props can be dangerous propositions. Falling rice can be quite painful pinging off the skin. Water going up your nose can be quite an uncomfortable sensation. A pole crashing into the body because you’re projectile was off is not the best feeling. However, when the bumps and kinks are slowly ironed out, the end result can be exponentially more moving than ever imagined. I hope you enjoy this visually stunning concert.

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### More information on the Green Map®

The Green Map® System is a global movement mapping sustainable living in over 50 countries. Internationally recognized Green Map® Icons are used to identify places in each community. These beautifully designed symbols represent the life, history, economy and activity of a “place”. Using these icons students will be able to map their own community and RDT will utilize the selected symbols to inspire artistic creativity and movement resulting in a more comprehensive understanding and representation of the community in which they live.

For more information on the Green Map® System visit [www.greenmap.org](http://www.greenmap.org)

### Big Thanks to PF Chang’s China Bistro

Studio D would like to personally thank PF Chang’s for donating hors d’oeuvres this evening. Please join us downstairs in the Rose Room. You will need your purple admission ticket to enter, to get these please visit the Studio D table in the lobby. Also, please present your ID if you wish to drink, wristbands will be provided.

