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WEEKEND Arts MOVIES PERFORMANCES

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Bob Braine

'BIRD BRAIN' It all started five years ago with some pigeons in Brooklyn. Since then, Jennifer Monson has followed the migration patterns of gray whales, ospreys, ducks and geese, presenting free, outdoor site-specific dances, workshops and panels on conservation along the way. On Monday, Ms. Monson gives her first New York performance in more than two years. This Bessie-Award winning choreographer is turning Dance Theater Workshop inside out with "Bird Brain" in an effort to create a habitat that offers urbanites a taste of her nature-driven dances. From 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., audience members supplied with building maps can follow a series of "trails" through the workshop's theater, past a terrace performance by local students, stairwell happenings and a janitor's closet that has been transformed into a wetland. They will then travel

where Bob Braine and Leslie Reed have used hundreds of five-gallon buckets full of various plant species to create a movable forest of vegetation for the premiere of "Flight of Mind" (above). Four dancers, including Ms. Monson, will perform this contemplative distillation of her "Bird Brain" projects, shifting the buckets to invoke different environments in which the nonpresentational, ambient dance will unfold. The composers David Kean and Kenta Nagai will perform Mr. Kean's soundscape of noises, taken from the dancers and the building itself. On Monday night, naturalists, artists and conservationists will take part in "Moving Ecologies," a post-performance discussion of the urban landscape. (Monday through Sept. 24, Dance Theater Workshop, 219 West 19th Street, Chelsea, (212) 924-0077.)

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