

Time Out

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Making a splash

Manhattan's lost ponds and pools inspire a 24-hour outdoor dance

Jennifer Monson wants you to feel a surge from water that you can't get even from a firehose. The 44-year-old choreographer, who previously arranged "flocking dances" in Times Square and Fulton Mall, is now set to explore how the water that once flowed beneath our streets stirs the water in our bodies. Part of the 2005 Movement Research Festival, a series of participatory, innovative dance projects, Monson's *24-Hour Migration* kicks off early on Sunday 27 along the tributaries and ponds now buried under Manhattan concrete. And everyone is invited to participate.

Monson and her fellow dancers will follow an 1865 map to chart a course along the city's original waterways. It starts near downtown's old Collect Pond—Manhattan's main source of drinking water before the 17th century—then follows Canal Street to a buried pond between North Moore and Beach Streets. Later, teams of dancers will move along numerous other

subterranean bodies of water across the city. Eventually, they'll all gather in Tompkins Square Park, which was merely marshland in 1865. Then the dance flows to a close. "By then, it'll be about four in the morning," Monson says, "and I think we'll head back to the East River."

This dance troupe will be a motley crew: The Movement Research Festival emphasizes "open calls," so some dancers will be brand-new to the choreographer. The Brooklyn-based Monson hopes the aquatic theme makes her dancers feel at ease. "I'm not giving any steps as instruction," she says, "I'll just be giving really simple drawings." As of last Monday, 40 dancers and musicians had responded to her website invitation to the event, which happens come rain or shine.

—Alec Appelbaum

For information about participating or watching, visit www.treetheater.org/mrf.