

Dance Magazine Chooses Misnomer in the Top 25 to Watch in 2007



Chris Elam (left)
and Laura Pocius

Chris Elam: Misnomer Dance Theater

Chris Elam startles viewers with his dancers' contortions. Resembling an underfed yogi, he can twist his body into any position; his studies in Cuba, Indonesia, and Turkey yield a vocabulary that sets him apart.

Raised in New York, Elam danced through his teens without ever studying traditional technique, focusing instead on improvisation and choreography. He graduated from Brown and earned an MFA at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. His works range from down-home dances that tell stories of romance among shy country people (his dad's from Kentucky) to exotic tangles that "articulate the awkward and earnest efforts I see in human relationships. I'm interested," he observes, "in the process of becoming more than oneself."

He's now experimenting with motion capture technology. Look for Misnomer at New York's Skirball Center for the Performing Arts, April 12-14. His website, www.misnomer.org, has videos, interviews, podcasts, a store, ticket giveaways, and more. —Elizabeth Zimmer