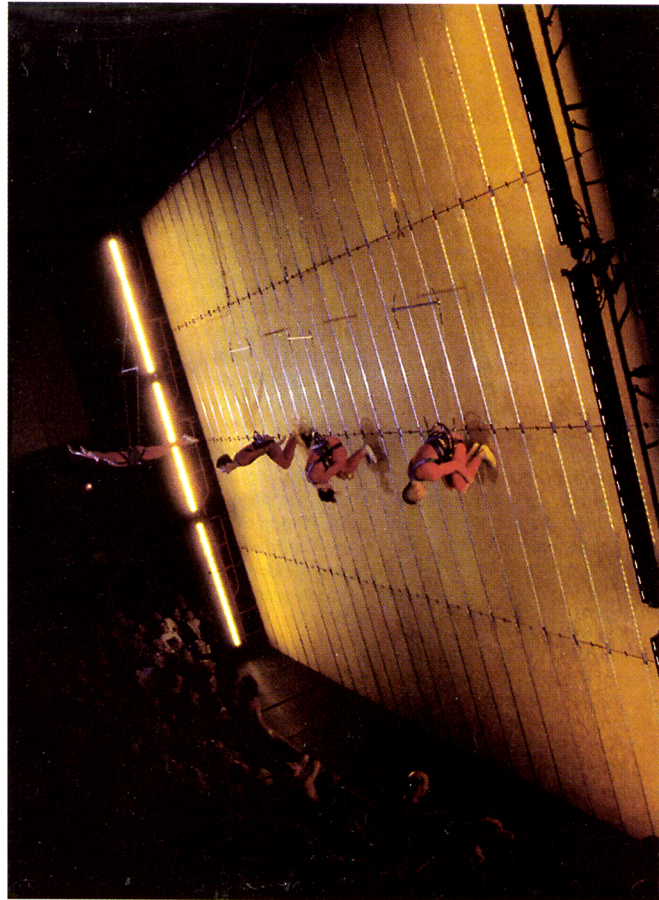


LIGHTING DIMENSIONS

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Don't look down

With four performers daringly descending a 40' wall in special harnesses that allowed them to walk at a 90° angle to the wall, lighting was probably not the first thing people noticed when watching *Lookup*, the latest piece by Elizabeth Streb's Ringside dancers, which premiered at the Brooklyn Bridge Anchorage in September.

But careful thought went into Heather Carson's lighting design, which served as a subtle complement to the dangling, swinging bodies that whacked up against one another and occasionally sprang off the wall and soared out over the audience—close enough sometimes for a few drops of sweat to fall on the onlookers' heads.

"When I first started looking at the piece, I had this strange sensation that I was looking at it from above, as if it were a groundplan or something," Carson says. "So the challenge for me was that they were dancing on a vertical floor, more so than a wall, really, and I tried to think of how I would light this floor, that happened to be suspended in the air."

After attending rehearsals all summer long in the brick caverns beneath the bridge, Carson installed four 1.2K ungelled HMIs and lined the sides of the yellow dye-stained wall (made of scaffolding planks) with vertical yellow MR-16 ministrrips, in order to rein-

force what she feels the dance company is all about: raw, energetic athleticism, devoid of emotion.

"In working with dance companies, I always try to find a base color that sort of gives the essence of that company. With Elizabeth, to me, it's no color, or a very primary color," Carson says, noting that the combination of the primary yellow lighting and red costumes emphasized the primal, basic feel of the piece. "Along those lines, I don't do any cueing, because the piece is not a narrative, so it's unnecessary information."

Philip Crowder designed the harnesses for *Lookup*, which are similar to acrobatic training belts, involving a ring within a ring, equipped with ball bearings, which allow for the dancers' athletic swivelling and pirouetting. Crowder also designed the rigging and was responsible for pinning the wall structure into the brick of the Anchorage.

Also premiering at the Anchorage in September was the world premiere of *Surface*, a work in which the bandage-clad, grunting dancers slammed up against and scurried around two large boards weighing 100lb each.

Ringside's engagement ended at the Anchorage at the end of September. Next on the agenda for the troupe is a performance at the Local Dance Festival in Curitiba, Brazil.

Abigail Pesta