



May 26, 2005 CRITIC'S PICKS: DANCE

Steps that suit a world of fancies

SUMMER PREVIEW: Come in, the water's fine

Expect a high-contrast summer in dance, starting with works by Russian maverick Boris Eifman and American iconoclast Merce Cunningham on major Southland stages at the same time.

Take your pick: The Eifman Ballet of St. Petersburg performs intense, character-driven dance dramas at the Orange County Performing Arts Center next Tuesday, June 1 and 2 ("Don Juan and Molière") and June 3-5 ("Red Giselle"), while the Merce Cunningham Dance Company presents groundbreaking dance-for-dance's sake abstractions at the Ahmanson Theatre on June 2 and 3 ("Views on Stage" and "Split Sides") and June 4 and 5 ("Fabrications" and "Split Sides").

Cunningham is also featured on the opening night of the annual Dance Camera West Festival (June 1-25) at the REDCAT in Walt Disney Concert Hall with the local premiere of his film "Views on Camera," a collaboration with Charles Atlas. And Eifman introduces his "Anna Karenina" at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion (June 23-26).