

# Graceful lines drawn through older limbs

**eMerge**  
Move Through Life  
Marion Cultural Centre  
Reviewed by Alan Brissenden

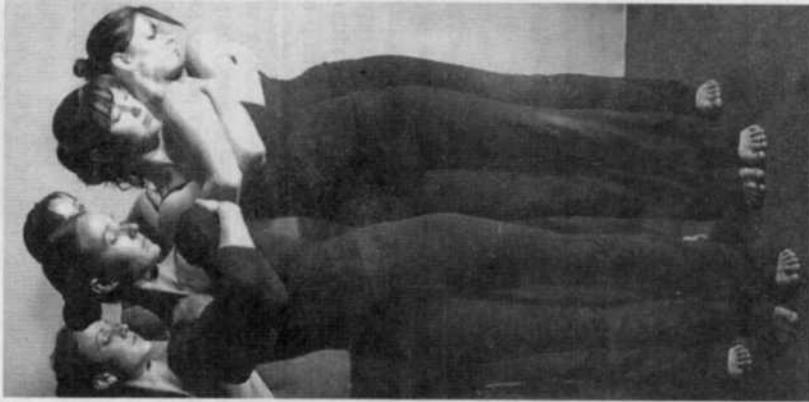
MARION CULTURAL CENTRE'S 160-seat theatre was filled near capacity for the debut performance of Move Through Life, a new dance group aiming to give opportunity for older dancers, 25+, to continue dancing and so maintain fitness and flexibility. Director Jo McDonald intends staging at least one performance a year, growing from regular classes and involving several choreographers. The program combined dance with music by the group Neve, sound tapes and images by Raw Studio – a collaboration between McDonald and Paul Richardson.

A foyer exhibition of stills was a good preparation for the imaginative videos preceding each of the three sections of the program; *Black & White*, *Sepia*, and *Colour*. Richardson had documented the dancers during rehearsal, then Linden Reynolds had manipulated the images for slow motion, blurring, graininess and so on, interspersed

with some of the stills; the projected movements often uncannily matched the rhythms of Neve's songs.

The choreography of the dozen pieces was smooth and tailored to the abilities of the 10 dancers – symmetrical groups, sculptural poses, nothing too fast, plenty of smiling enthusiasm. The best of the bunch was Enchant, a duet by McDonald and the two dancers, Natalie Papps and Danny Hales, the

company's one man. It had more satisfying structure than the others, building to a climax with a couple of turning lifts handled with easy assurance. The whole program was confidently presented and the attentive audience of all ages, from babes in arms to grandies, loved it. But it should have finished with dance, not with a bracket of songs we had to wait for – that was an anticlimax. On this showing, the project is worth pursuing.



Above and Top: Images from Raw Studios' exhibition of stills – *Black & White*, *Sepia*, and *Colour* – which