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## ARTS

Edited by Stephen Bevis



# Intriguing experiment continues

## DANCE

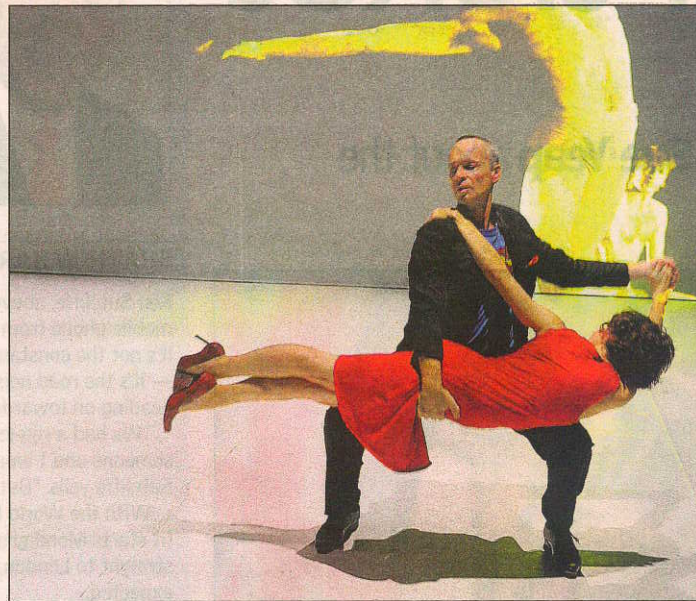
Sprung

Sue Peacock with Stefan Karlsson  
STRUT Dance/Performing Lines WA  
Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts  
Review: Nina Levy

Sue Peacock, one of Perth's best-known independent choreographers, intends Sprung to be her last work. Performed by Peacock and long-term collaborator Stefan Karlsson, it is clear from the opening scene that the concept of "endings" is central to the work.

With the two dancers depicted as a pair of card-playing angels, the reference to the final ending is hard to ignore. However, as their feathery white angel wings and shiny white wigs imply, the work deals with this potentially downbeat theme in a quirky and light-hearted manner.

Undoubtedly the funny moments, physical and verbal, are crucial to this work's success. A po-faced interpretation of the Black Eyed Peas' Pump is one highlight as it reminisces on the fate of a long-ago pet budgie,



Three elements: Sue Peacock and Stefan Karlsson in Sprung.

snap-frozen in the Swedish snow of Karlsson's childhood. Be warned, though, some of the humour is targeted very specifically at particular people — jokes about the process of creating contemporary dance or applying for a grant will only be

entertaining to those in the know.

Peacock is renowned for her loose-limbed, released movement style, and watching the pair perform that style on opening night was a delight. In dance terms, Karlsson and

Peacock are veterans, and they brought to the stage the assurance of extended experience. Both relatively long-limbed, the two dancers created a series of extended, elegant lines, their movement somehow both weighted and weightless.

In her 2009 work, Questions Without Notice, Peacock and designer Andrew Lake experimented with projecting live images of dancers on to an onstage screen. Peacock and Lake continue to play with this idea in Sprung and a memorable scene sees Peacock dancing with both her projected image and her shadow. It's a strange and mesmerising pas de trois in which the two images alternately appear and disappear, sliding in and out of view, looming large and shrinking.

Sprung is engaging and entertaining, and received a warm reception from the opening-night audience. Sue Peacock is leaving on a high.

**Sprung ends tomorrow night.**