

# Want to get unwired?

By John Gregory  
Special to The Press-Enterprise

**W**arning: "Wireless City" is not for the faint of heart, nor is it for those who prefer the conventional performing arts. But for those who appreciate the avant garde, performances in the round or simply wish to experience some unusual dance-theater, "Wireless City" is not to be missed.

San Diego's Eveoke Dance Theatre joins Palomar College to present a "performance carnival" focusing on the merging of biology and technology ("Max Headroom," "Dark Angel"). The performances are held in downtown's Reincarnation Project art building at 10th and J streets.

Michael Mufson and Peter Gach, who conceived and direct "Wireless City," originally created the play for a workshop production at Palomar College in 1989. The play centers around a company called Wireless City, which broadcasts free downloads directly into its subscribers, thus controlling them. A technician in a laboratory works on a robot-like character to make the human body obsolete. Of course there are the renegades who have avoided being programmed. They live at the dump and attempt to rescue the others.

It's not as big a stretch as it seems and actually a bit timely. Much to his delight, "Wireless City" producer Christopher Hall reports that the University of California-

San Diego has just received a multi-million dollar grant to essentially study just such a thing, the possibility of directly wiring up humans to electronic technology.

"Wireless City" dips the audience into sensory immersion. The crowd, waiting among old computer monitors lining the walkway and flashing red lights near the entrance, is brought through the door and instantly gets blasted with sound, movement and color. One of the actresses looks right at people in the audience and speaks to them directly. The experience is chilling.

Although there are a few seats, the audience is encouraged to walk around and small stages are in all corners of a warehouse-like room. The place is filled with technological icons as props. Dancers gyrate and choreographed video is projected onto the walls.

Guests soon discover performers among the audience, mingling freely. It's often hard to figure out who is in the play and who is simply a spectator. What's that on the floor? It's a bag lady, or man, hunched way over and covered in rags. It never rises during the entire performance, slowly making its way through the audience instead, sometimes grabbing at people.

An actress, wearing only strips of black tape and hooked up to glowing tubes, stands strapped to a cross, breathing her lines into a microphone. A dancer leaps to the ground, kneeling motionless at the



Christopher Hall

Rage against the crush of modern technology is explored in the experimental theater piece "Wireless City," a joint project by San Diego's Eveoke Dance Theatre and Palomar College.

crowds' feet for several minutes. One dancer spends the entire time in a go-go cage. Another climbs a pipe and performs simple acrobatics.

Wireless City is now showing at Reincarnation Project, 10th and J streets. Runs at 8 p.m. on Friday Saturday, Monday and Feb. 16 and 17. 7 p.m. Sunday and Feb. 18. General admission is \$15, \$10 students and seniors. For more information call (619) 238-1153.

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## "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest"

by Dale Wasserman  
From the novel by Ken Kesey