

THE PLAIN DEALER

Innovation Powers Company

By **WILMA SALISBURY** - February 15th, 2003 / Cleveland, OH

Troika Ranch, the progressive digital dance company from New York, capped a teaching residency at Oberlin College with a preview of "Future of Memory" Thursday night at Warner Center.

The evening-length work, a fascinating fusion of movement, music, text, video, costumes and lighting, will premiere later this month in New York. Although the preview lacked live music and a set, it successfully created a surreal world of vivid memories that became blurred, distorted, dramatized or destroyed.

The dancers - Danielle Goldman, Michou Szabo, Sandra Tillet and co-artistic director Dawn Stoppiello - each focused on a meaningful event or emotion. As the memory faded or changed shape, it was recalled with everyday objects.

The dancers alternately moved together in flowing unison or took the solo spotlight in collaboration with co-artistic director Mark Coniglio, who used interactive video techniques to transform the dancers' faces and voices. He also projected recurring images of a stone dropping into water and he composed taped string-and-percussion music that was played simultaneously with interactive electronic music generated by the dancers' movements.

The periodic scattering of small yellow balls suggested that the self-absorbed individuals portrayed by the dancers might be losing their marbles. But at the end, they exchanged Polaroid photos taken during the course of the piece and danced a harmonious quartet that celebrated the company's innovative union of performance art and technology.