

March 17, 2006
Family Fare

Having Their Vegetables and Eating Them, Too

By LAUREL GRAEBER

Making the First Move

Choreography may not be a familiar term to many children. But put them in a room with catchy music, and most seem to know innately that the road to fun is traveled one joyous step at a time.

That will be the premise on Sunday, when children will get in touch with their inner Twyla Tharps — and adults with their inner children — at a family day presented by Notes in Motion, a New York dance troupe.

"We'll develop a dance in front of the kids," said Amanda Selwyn, the company's artistic director, "and they will actually come onstage to invent new movements."

The afternoon will begin with a five-minute welcome dance by the troupe, who will then explain how choreographers come up with ideas. Using recorded pieces by Don Nelson, Tuatara (a jazz ensemble) and the Balanescu Quartet (a chamber group), the company will create a work, using the children's (and, perhaps, brave parents') contributions.

Notes in Motion will perform the dance, and members of the audience will enroll in their choice of postshow workshops in drama, dance or visual art. The art program will look into how clay or sketches can record movements. "We also use props in our dance, and that's where the drama comes in," Ms. Selwyn said.

The grand finale will include demonstrations, conversation and something everyone will appreciate after an hour of physical and imaginative leaps: refreshments.

Notes in Motion Family Day, Sunday from 2 to 3:30 p.m. at the Philip Coltoff Center, 219 Sullivan Street, near Bleecker Street, Greenwich Village. Tickets: \$5; each family (two adults and any number of children), \$10; educators, free. Reservations advised: (212) 995-9446 or familyday@notesinmotion.org.