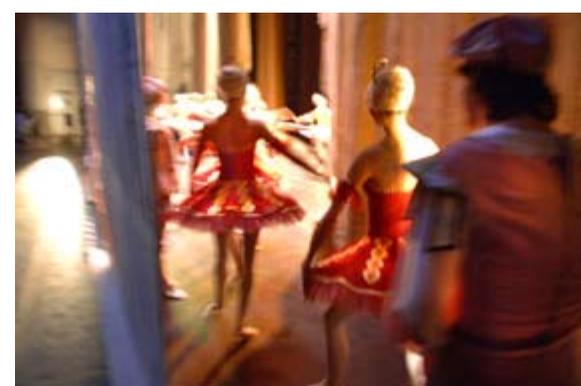


CHANNELING DEGAS

MICHAEL BROHM



Standing in the wings of the stage, the dancers run past on both sides, flowing around me like a quick stream. It's just before curtain. The ballerinas are onstage stretching, primping, practicing gestures and poses, all bathed in muted color and hairpins. As the music starts, they stride quietly out of the darkness into the glow of performance.

The dancers fly effortlessly above the stage, a practiced smile on their lips masking the extraordinary effort. At scene changes, dancers run offstage panting vigorously.

I'm surprised it's not heard by the audience. A few quick breaths, then back onstage, into the light. I've put myself here, in the middle of a Degas painting.

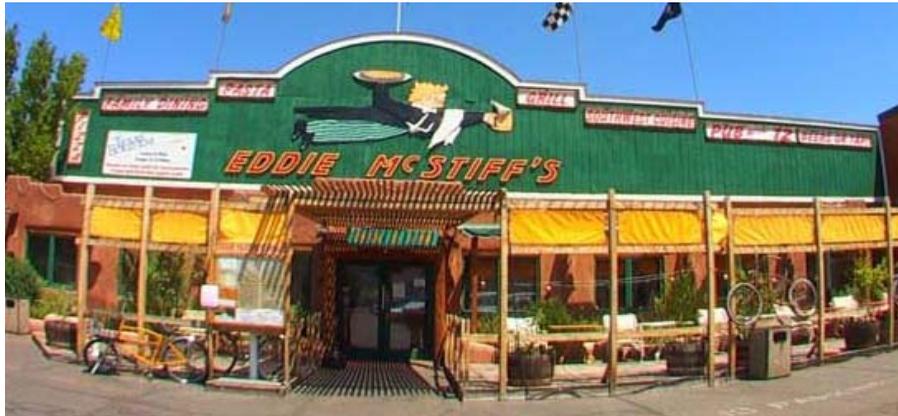
I'm watching the scene as if I were Degas, standing at the side of the stage, just out of sight, studying the dancers, noticing the grace of a hand, the position of feet, a bend at the waist. His paintings are here... ballerinas in soft pastels of tulle and velvet, lit from below by the warm glow of stage lights.

Degas had painted racehorses in his earlier years... perhaps recognizing the stamina, musculature and beauty in both the horse and the dancer.

Being Kentucky bred, I understand the connection/attraction.

These are mythical, magical creatures pushing their bodies to the limit, enduring the pain of the beautiful, brutal performance.

Brutality is no stranger to ballet in Russia. Before World War II, the Kirov Ballet made it's home in Leningrad. As Hitler's troops advanced on the besieged city, the ballet was evacuated to the city of Perm. Families were started, houses were built and friends were made, prompting a group of dancers and instructors to remain in Perm after the war. Perm is now home to The Tchaikovsky Ballet and the Perm Ballet Academy.



57 S MAIN STREET
in the McSTIFFS PLAZA
435.259. BEER (2337)

www.eddiemcstiffs.com

**IT'S
SPRING!!!**

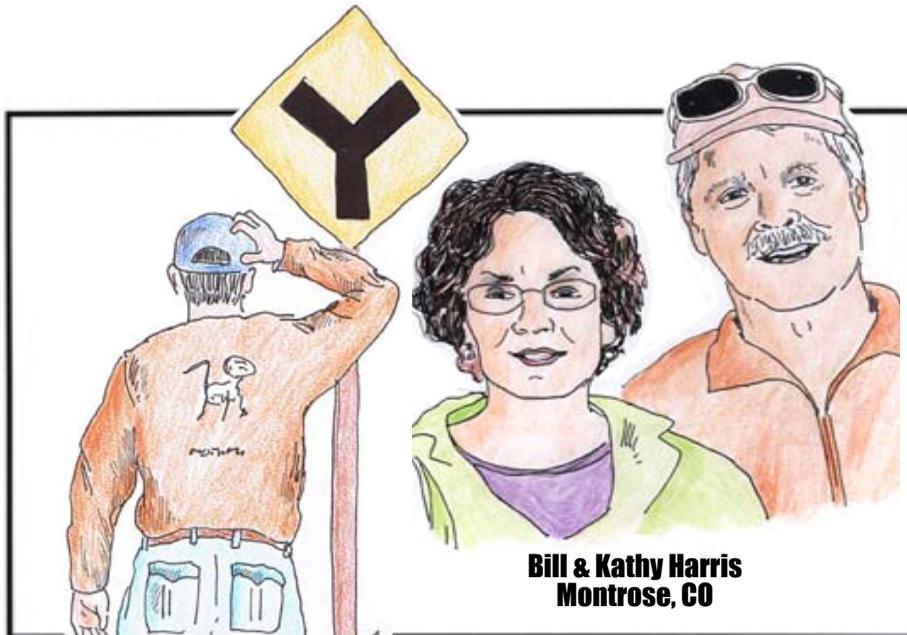


Fresh is the only way
to ensure truly
delicious
Middle-Eastern
flavor.

WE HAVE TWO LOCATIONS!
1515 South 1500 East & 912 East 900 South

OPEN MONDAY-SATURDAY 11AM to 9pm
In a hurry? Phone ahead and
we'll have it ready for you

(801) 671.2999 www.mazzacafe.com



Bill & Kathy Harris
Montrose, CO

**THE BACK
BONE...#37**



"Tie-dyed treehuggers
and redneck environmentalists
working for common ground
since 1984."

Visit www.uintahmountainclub.org
or PO Box 782 Vernal, UT 84078

THE BACKBONE #7a



our pal
BILL BENGE



MIKE MA-ROONEY
San Diego,



ANNIE PAYNE
SLC, Utah

**LIFETIME
BACKBONE
MEMBER**

**CATHY
BERRIER**

**Le Chesnay,
France**

