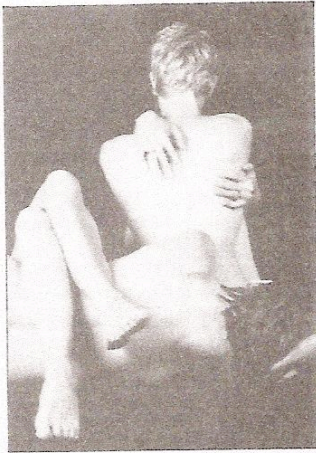


Herald

Friday
October 6, 2006



SUZANNE FOGARTY

Suzanne Fogarty's photos are part of "That One Curve."

ENTERTAINMENT

Body image focus of event

ZOE FRALEY

THE BELLINGHAM HERALD

Every woman has that curve. She might love it or hate it, but she has it.

Pam Kuntz says it's time to embrace it.

Her multimedia performance piece, "That One Curve," will run for the next two weekends at the Firehouse Performing Arts Center and will tell the stories of local women's struggles with food, guilt and body.

"I hope it will make (the audience) question how women are portrayed in the media and how women's bodies are used to sell things," she says.

Kuntz, a dancer, teacher and choreographer, interviewed local women about their relationships with their bodies and included seven women to tell their stories in the piece, with a backdrop of photography by Anacortes photographer Suzanne Fogarty. Three dancers will translate the stories into movement tailored

"There are so many women involved, and each one has their own perspective," says dancer Jessica Kruger Stahl, a 29-year-old student at Western Washington University.

Kuntz's inspiration for the piece came from her own body issues, and from watching her teenage stepdaughters and her students deal with their body issues. Negative body image is not limited to teenage girls; it breaks the boundaries of age, race and gender. The show opened last weekend, and Kuntz says the audience was pretty evenly split between men and women of many different ages.

"It's (for) anyone," Kuntz says. "It goes straight to the core for any person."

One woman's story shows what it was like growing up with a mother who stressed body and diet. Despite the angst her mother caused, she grew up and did the same thing to her daughter.

"She realized that she was passing on this legacy and decided to stop it," Kuntz says.

Hearing the stories of local women can help people realize they don't have to feel the pressure to conform to images in the media, Kruger Stahl says.

"There's not one way to be happy, one way to be strong, one way to be beautiful."

Reach Zoe Fraley at 715-2220 or zoe.fraley@bellinghamherald.com.

IF YOU GO

What: "That One Curve," a multimedia performance, featuring dance, photography, poetry and music by community members.

Where: Firehouse Performing Arts Center, 1314 Harris Ave.

When: 7:30 p.m. today and Saturday, with additional showtimes on Oct. 13 and 14.

Admission: \$12 and \$10 for students and seniors.

Tickets: Buy them at the door or at the Community Food Co-op and Village Books.