



## Entertainment News NW Reviews Blog has received seven Washington Press Association Awards!

- [Home](#)
- [Submit an event](#)
- [Advertising](#)
- [Contact](#)
- [Updates & Changes](#)
- [Distribution](#)
- [Archives](#)

---

« [Plaid is a many-splendored thing Spreading Rumors](#) »

## Powerfully moving Context

### Kuntz works multi-media magic

by Christopher Key

If you had to draw your own health map, what would it look like? That was the question asked by a 2007 research project funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The results did not consist of dry statistics and lots of charts, but images, emotions, ideas and passions. Taking that study for inspiration, director Pam Kuntz has concocted an often dizzying, always riveting multi-media production called *In the Context of Life*.

Kuntz collaborated with Richard Scholtz, co-director of the original research project, to bring those health maps to vibrant life. Scholtz and Spencer Thun composed the score, Maria McLeod and Stephen Howie of How Loud Media provide videography, and Suzanne Fogarty contributes photography.

If you know anything about Kuntz's work, you will know she's all about movement. There's a lot of it woven throughout the show and it is touching, whimsical and utterly entrancing. Dancers Vanessa Daines, Angela Kiser and Ella Mahler are a joy to behold.

But the real stars of the show are 15 of our neighbors. They are young and old, gay and straight, rich and poor. They are doctors, lawyers, teachers, retirees, musicians, students and executives. Their health spans the spectrum. One of them is in the hospital and couldn't make tonight's preview performance. The challenges they have faced and continue to face are devastating. As Kuntz notes, one of the challenges was going public with some stories that are intensely personal.



Photo credit - Suzanne Fogarty

The stories are often wrenching, leavened by moments of giddy humor. There are moments of “Where are we going and why are we in this handbasket?” It is often in-your-face political and equally often politically incorrect.

Rather than identify those neighbors of ours who have the chutzpah to share their stories, I’ll let you be surprised. I was. One of them is a close colleague in the medical community, another a cherished theatre friend. They weren’t chosen for their media skills, but for the journeys they have to share.

*In the Context of Life* plays September 24, 25, 30, October 1, 2, 7, 8 and 9 at 7:30 p.m. in the wonderful Firehouse Performing Arts Center in Fairhaven. There will be 2:00 p.m. matinees on October 3 and 10. I can’t urge you strongly enough to purchase your tickets well in advance at Village Books or the Community Food Coop. Admission is \$12. For further details, see [www.kuntzandcompany.org](http://www.kuntzandcompany.org).

This show will leave you emotionally and physically drained, but you will take something away that is priceless: the sheer indomitability of the human spirit.

###

This entry was posted on Thursday, September 23rd, 2010 at 10:48 pm and is filed under [Uncategorized](#). You can follow any responses to this entry through the [RSS 2.0](#) feed. Both comments and pings are currently closed.

---

Entertainment News NW – News, Reviews & Updates is proudly powered by [WordPress](#)  
[Entries \(RSS\)](#).