

DANCE

# A Banned Dance From Anna Halprin, Now Celebrated

By BRIAN SCHAEFER MAY 24, 2017

New York is often cited as the birthplace of postmodern dance, but California deserves credit. “Radical Bodies,” an exhibition at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, explores these Golden State roots through the relationship of three pioneering women with strong ties there: Anna Halprin, Simone Forti and Yvonne Rainer. The exhibition covers 1955-1972, when Ms. Halprin formulated her task-based communal works in the Bay Area and shared them with Ms. Forti and Ms. Rainier, who became influential figures in the New York scene in that period. (Through Sept. 16; nypl.org.)

In 1967, Ms. Halprin’s seminal work “Parades and Changes” was performed at Hunter College and subsequently banned for its nudity. On Wednesday, May 31, the UCSB Dance Company performs a section of the work, “The Paper Dance,” a ritualistic bonfire of flesh and parchment, along with “Chair/Pillow” by Ms. Rainer, and José Limón’s “Isadora Dances.” Ms. Forti is a guest artist. On June 4, Ms. Forti also performs at Cathy Weis’s “Sundays on Broadway” series. (Kaye Playhouse; cathyweis.org.)

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