

## Multimedia flamenco show at CU

Daily Camera staff  
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The Black Box Studio in the University of Colorado's ATLAS building is dark except for four bright screens, lit in the shape of large polka dots.

The silhouette of dancer Lisa Trujillo is visible as she twists her arms slowly from behind one of the screens, containing her body to the spot of light.

Then the guitarists start strumming, the choreographer starts clapping and Trujillo starts moving her feet as she dances out from behind the screen and kicks her long, ruffled skirt in front of the light.

This is the start of Polka Dot, a free multimedia flamenco show funded by a small grant from the Boulder Arts Commission. The production will feature flamenco dancing highlighted with live music, lighting, video, costume and sound effects.

"We're trying to do a multimedia avant-garde, we don't even know what it is; it's an experiment," said choreographer Pablo Rodarte, who has spent his life studying and teaching flamenco around the world.

Rodarte has helped the dancers maintain the traditional aspect of flamenco, while dancer and director Rebekah West has brought multimedia aspects into the performances.

Polka dots, which traditionally adorn flamenco skirts and dresses, confine and highlight Trujillo's dance and later filter across the room as Trujillo is covered with projections of dots.

During the same dance, Trujillo serves as the screen for a previously shot and edited video of herself dancing.

"You're going to be all lit up here. You're cinema!" West shouted during a rehearsal Tuesday. "As a dancer, you're in a conversation with the media, and you have to place yourself properly for that conversation to come alive."

The ultimate goal is to make the dance and music of flamenco more accessible to an American audience, West said.

The team of artists plans to build upon this weekend's shows, creating more multimedia productions based on audience feedback.

"It's high-energy and kind of blow-your-socks-off entertainment, emotion, music and rhythm," West said.

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