

Duck, Duck, Goose

When was the last time you channeled your inner pigeon? Yeah, it's been a while for us, too. You can make up for lost time by checking out Jennifer Monson's *Bird Brain*, a multi-year dance and educational project that investigates the migratory patterns of birds and other animals. "The world is connected by waves of moving birds," says the award-winning choreographer. "I'm fascinated by the inherent perceptive abilities of birds and the genetic remnants of that in humans."

Her latest installment of the project, *Ducks & Geese Migration*, follows the northbound migration of ducks and geese through the Mississippi flyway. That's about 2,000 miles, folks. The project kicked off in Corpus Christi on March 12 and ends May 22 in Canada. Monson is an improvisational choreographer, so each performance along the tour is unique to its site. She instructs her dancers (as well as anyone else who wants to join in) to move about the performance space while reacting to each other and to the given environment, just like, say, a real flock of birds. The performances are always set outdoors, so an errant car horn or

even a sneeze could set the flock aflutter. "I want to engage the audience with in-the-moment dancing," says Monson. "It's flocking that borders on the sublime."

Each of the three dance performances slated for Houston will be preceded by a navigational movement workshop for the audience. Following

each show will be a panel discussion that includes scientists, bird lovers and Monson herself. And to get you in a flighty state of mind, DiverseWorks will open the Houston leg of the tour with a screening of the



Anja Hitzberger

A fine pair of birds.

Oscar-nominated documentary by Jacques Perrin, *Winged Migration*. With all the birds flying around this weekend, you might as well wait until Monday to wash your car. — **Brandy Robichau**

Winged Migration screens at 8 p.m. Friday, March 19, at DiverseWorks, 1117 East Freeway. *Bird Brain: Ducks and Geese Migration* performances at 11 a.m. Saturday, March 20, at the duck ponds of Hermann Park, 6001 Fannin, and 4 p.m. at the sundial of the Houston Museum of Natural Science, One Hermann Circle. Final performance is 2 p.m. Sunday, March 21, at the Houston Arboretum, 4501 Woodway. For information, call 713-223-8346 or visit www.birdbraindance.org. \$5 screening; free performances.