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By [Linda Shapiro](#)

Becoming a mid-career artist in the Twin Cities has its drawbacks. You are too established to get funding from some sources and not big-time enough to get support from others. So Paul Herwig, an entrepreneurial spirit who is also co-director of Off-Leash Area Theater, has generated the Right Here Showcase to give those oft-neglected artists a place to create and produce new work. This year's lineup includes some of the area's smartest, most provocative art makers over two weekends. The first weekend features work by Melissa Birch and Penelope Freeh. Birch's "Who Moved My Child," a physical theater meditation on childhood's end (or as Birch puts it "Melissa Birch does Mother Goose"), features text by her and choreography by Deborah Jinza Thayer. Freeh's "Helioscope," created in collaboration with London-based dance artist Donna Schoenherr, investigates 19th-century photographer Eadweard Muybridge's iconic imagery of the human body, recorded in a flip book-like series, through dance, sound, and film. The second weekend features work by composer and multimedia artist Craig Harris and choreographer Megan Mayer. Harris' "Elijah in the Wadi — the Seed of Conflict" explores the life of the Prophet Elijah, integrating original music, immersive visual projection, movement, and acting. Mayer's "This Is Supposed to Be My Fertile Window," by contrast, examines stage fright through the persona of soul singer Dusty Springfield. The work interrogates attempts to control women's bodies, the purpose of anxiety, the hostile state of women's health care, impersonation as performance, and much more.