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This Week's Reviews **REVIEWS** THEATER

THEATER

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Flowingdancecompany - Passage Bleu
Choreographed by Anne-Sophie Fenner
Merce Cunningham Studio
55 Bethune Street
212-691-9751

Review by Kristin Forte

Passage Bleu artfully explores struggle, love, friendship and the inevitability of change. The New York cast of Anne-Sophie Fenner's Zurich, Switzerland-based Flowingdancecompany examines these most basic elements of life in an engaging performance of contemporary dance.

The strictly enforced "no shoes in the studio" policy creates an earthy ambience and enhances the viewer's own body-awareness. The music imparts an organic feel as well, ranging from beating drums to classical Vivaldi to moments of silence. This explorative production forgoes lofty, whimsical ideals to focus on more realistic and down-to-earth subject matter.

Though not everyone will understand exactly what each piece is intended to convey, the dances are emotive and visually stunning. The brief playbill descriptions shed some light for the bewildered, and give meaning to the subtlest of nuances for those who read beforehand.

The small ensemble of Kesa Huey, Elisa Schreiber, Nicole Stephens, Yayoi Suzuki and Ana Wu is truly impressive and brings life to Fenner's vision of the human condition. Schreiber and Stephens, two remarkably trained talents, possess a mixture of strength, grace and charisma.

For the most part, the costumes are rather plain and unflattering, with the welcome exception of those for "Eclaircie," one of the finest pieces of the evening, in which the dancers wear vibrant flowing dresses that swirl around them as they ebb and flow about the stage.

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Recent Theater



- King of Shadows
- A Midsummer Night's Dream (Pictured)
- Oh What War
- Three Changes
- 4 Adults Only



- A Great Place To Be From (pictured)
- The Invitation
- KIDSTUFF
- The Spitfire Grill
- There or Here



- A Perfect Ganesh

- To Whom It May Concern
- Rooms: A Rock Romance
- Twelfth Night
- Ragtime
- Shipwrecked!
- Hamlet
- Broken Dog Legs
- Sessions
- Cool New York Dance Festival
- Freudian Slips
- Aristocrats
- The American Plan
- When In Disgrace
- Terre Haute
- Silent Heroes

The last 40 minutes of the performance are dedicated to the titular "Passage Bleu," a piece about women overcoming their fears and becoming who they want to be. The whirling dancers and intense music create the perfect climactic ending to the night.

Fenner's raw, evocative choreographic sense, along with the dancers' technique and poise, produces a program that is unpretentious, thought provoking and simply beautiful.



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