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An Informal, Exciting Mix

Jon Sims Center for the Arts San Francisco, California September 30, 2004

By Rita Felciano

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Sean Dorsey's "Second Kiss", danced by the choreographer with Mair Culbreth, wistfully recalled a first kiss. The simplicity and naivete of its vocabulary—both verbal and kinetic—stood in stark contrast with a painful identity issue that is almost never explored even at a time when work about gender abounds. What does it mean for a child—or an adult—to be born into what feels like the wrong body, one in which gender and sex are fundamentally different? "Kiss's" fumbling, tumbling and recoiling movements were blissfully childlike but redolent in sadness and pain for one of the two dancers. Lovely in the way it captured the awkwardness of puppy love, the work ended on an ambiguous note, already suggested by its title. Maybe there was going to be a second kiss after all.

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