Tough Love
Dorsey dotes on childhood

BY KAREN MACKLIN

First crushes are always painful, especially when they involve a literal punch or pigtail-pull from one grade-schooler to another. But for a kid who doesn’t fit neatly into “male” or “female,” there can be a whole other level of heartache that happens during young love — like when the new girl in town digs you until she finds out you’re not really a boy. Sean Dorsey, a local transgender choreographer who combines full-bodied modern dance with storytelling and pungent humor, explores fourth-grade crushes and other intimate but often humorous experiences in The Outsider Chronicles. Using narrative to lessen the abstraction of dance, Dorsey relates the adventures of a butch 13-year-old pulled out of jazz choir to receive gender-correction “play therapy” from the school psychologist (the kid gives Barbie a buzz cut and tries to create a dick out of a Hot Wheels Jeep Cherokee), a queer-transgender couple getting brutalized by police after a night out on the town, and a transgender boy preparing to come out to his father.

The Outsider Chronicles plays at 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday at ODC Theater, 3153 17th St. (at Shotwell), S.F. Admission $15; call 863-9834 or visit www.freshmeatproductions.org.