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IN PERFORMANCE

Weaving Text and Video Into a Stream of Motion

*SuarezDanceTheater
Williamsburg Art neXus*

Christine Suarez made something fresh of a familiar format in "Pleased to Meet Me: An Evening With SuarezDanceTheater," performed on Sunday night at the Williamsburg Art neXus in Brooklyn. Ms. Suarez joined dances and musical numbers in a smooth-flowing stream in the 70-minute piece. Several brief segments introduced the dancers and musicians, weaving in text and video components. Three longer dances were also embedded in the flow.

Ms. Suarez has had considerable theater experience in her young career, including work with Athol Fugard as an assistant director at the Manhattan Theater Club. That experience shows in the savvy staging of the piece and in the way Ms. Suarez uses the stage space in this theater, which brims with possibilities. But there is a strange emotional disconnect in the longer dance segments.

The company has the feel of a bouncy young family of friends. Big, buoyant moves predominate in Ms. Suarez's somewhat circumscribed choreographic palette. That cheerfulness overwhelms the serious themes in two of the three longer dances on the program.

"I Know, But" (performed by Lindsay Forsythe, Michael Rattray, Leah E. Squires and Ms. Suarez) addresses the emotional aftermath of the World Trade Center attack, and "A Woman Alone" (Donna Costillo, Ms. Forsythe, Collette Porteous and Ms. Squires) was inspired in part by the sometimes tragic life of the South African writer Bessie Head. But the two dances do not look much different from the relatively abstract "Link" (Ms. Costello, Ms. Forsythe and Ms. Suarez).

Peter Lane composed the scores for the three works, performed live with his musicians (Alon Carmelly, Damon Kaplan and Skye Steele). The lighting was by Severn Clay. The costumes were by Kevin Brainerd and Nancy Plominski.

JENNIFER DUNNING

