

Arts & LEISURE

The New York Times

SUNDAY, JANUARY 2, 2011

THE WEEK AHEAD

JAN. 2-JAN. 8

New York Times critics and reporters preview the week's cultural happenings.

More comprehensive listings of cultural events can be found each Friday in the Weekend section.

Dance

Jack Anderson

Swiss cowboys? Yep. They're loping here from Lausanne, dancing all the way, and possibly doing a bit of brawling too. These cowpokes are the men of the **COMPAGNIE PHILIPPE SAIRE** of Lausanne who are appearing in the United States premiere of Mr. Saire's all-male "Lonesome Cowboy." In this commentary on male bonding and unbinding, Mr. Saire explores men's often contradictory emotions and their needs for both togetherness and separation. At various times the five men in the cast may seem brotherly, erotic and tender, while at other times they may be militant and combative. And the situations into which Mr. Saire has put them variously express intimacy, violence, fear and courage.

Among the inspirations for this hour-long piece are photographs of wrestlers tying their bodies into knots and movies like "Full Metal Jacket" and "Cool Hand Luke." Mr. Saire also acknowledges the influence of books that analyze masculine identity and the power of crowds. All of this suggests that Swiss cowboys can be both brainy and brawny. But the action will be gritty, as well, for the dancers will have an ever-shifting gravel surface beneath their feet. *Thursday and Friday 8 p.m., Saturday 2 and 8 p.m., Sunday 2 and 7:30 p.m., Joyce Theater, 175 Eighth Avenue at 19th Street, Chelsea; (212) 242-0800, joyce.org; \$10-\$39.*



MARIO DEL CURTO

Compagnie Philippe Saire of Switzerland performs "Lonesome Cowboy" this week at the Joyce Theater.