

NEW YORK NOTEBOOK



NUT-CRACKING

NY

David Parker and **The Bang Group**, famous downtown for finding the silly in the serious, returns to Dance Theater Workshop (December 15-22) with *Nut/Cracked*. An amalgam of tap, ballroom, ballet, and postmodern dance, this adaptation of the yuletide classic—set to an Americanized Tchaikovsky score by Duke Ellington and others—features Parker's trademark rhythmic dancing, including his forays into the percussive possibilities of the pointe shoe. The cheeky spectacle also includes a pas de deux of versatile thumb-sucking and a pair of pointes personified as the Sugar Plum Fairy. See www.dtw.org. —VANESSA MANKO

Nick Burnham, courtesy The Bang Group

Hear Me Roar

NY

In Sam Kim's new *Vince and Alison* (premiering December 1 to 4 at Dance Theater Workshop), cabriole and *révérence* collide with the cartoon energy of Kim Possible. Named after the duo that formed the '80s pop group Yaz, Kim's female trio corrals the informality of social dance in a rangy, loping composition. Driven by the rhythms of '80s synth pop, images arise from the pony to the Jane Fonda workout. Sharing the bill, **Luciana Achugar** uses an all-female cast to investigate issues of identity and empowerment in her *A Super Natural Return to Love*. In what Achugar calls a manifesto of sorts, she presents a strong yet sensual physicality. Achugar says her sextet shows women "redefining ourselves, a new way of being female." See www.dtw.org. —CHRIS DOHSE



Aaron Brewer