



Wally Cardona's sense of alienation is tangible, as his actions are both self-involved and self-defeating, in the solo piece "Him," a part of "Him, There, Them," performed at Dance Theater Workshop through January 15.

► DANCE, from p.26

In "There," he is joined by Kathryn Sanders, Joanna Kotze and Matthew Winheld, who present a society whose norms have been upturned, but the language—a rhythmic, robotic lyricism with awkward and agile locomotion choices—survives, to allow random acts of connection that seem magical, but are fleeting and unproductive.

Finally, in "Them," Cardona and long-time dancer/collaborator Kathryn Sanders join in a duet that evolves into a series of twisting figure eights and non-unison dancing that is luminous and powerfully human.

Cardona, a meticulous choreographer and exceptionally graceful dancer, began his career as a performer in Ralph Lemon Company. When he began to choreograph in 1992, he said, he would always ask himself, "What in this is like Ralph? Before I was more reactionary. Now when I make stuff I look at it and identify the old stuff. Stuff slips in, he said, "but that is what makes work rigorous. When you see a work and can tell that the choreographer looked at everything and consciously made a decision that *this* belongs."

His own technically grounded movement aesthetic is "constantly changing," said Cardona, "and I become aware, as time passes, of the things that continue."

WALLY CARDONA QUARTET

"Him, There, Them"
 Dance Theater Workshop
 219 W. 19th St.
 Jan. 10 at 8 pm.
 Jan. 11, 13-15 7:30 pm.
 \$20, 212-924-0077 or dtw.org

For his next work, which is being co-produced by BAM's Next Wave Festival and the Portland Institute for Contemporary Art (PICA), he plans on working with the dancers in different way.

"Before I knew exactly what I wanted. Now I approach it more like a writer or director with a score, and allow the dancers to unearth things as performers, to be in the moment with their own unique physicality. From the audience, these things may seem small. It's easy to just slip into the movement. It's performative—"You look like a dancer," I've said, "I want to see Matthew."

This same quality is evident in "Him, There, Them," and it gives a welcome lightness and honesty to the work. This is a repeat engagement, back by popular demand, following its premiere last year at The Duke on 42nd Street. Once again, there are only five performances. Masterpieces like this don't come along all the time—beautiful dancers, powerful visual elements, meaningful and methodical choreography and accessible music, both live and electronic.



Wally Cardona and his long-time collaborator Kathryn Sanders join in the duet "There," a series of figure eights and non-unison dancing both luminous and powerfully human.