

CHICAGO READER APRIL 1, 2010



Dust

STEVEN SCHREIBER

CRITIC'S CHOICE DANCE

Hedwig Dances

Choreographer Jan Bortoszek has always had a knack for the telling gesture, and telling gestures pervade *Dance of Forgotten Steps*, receiving its world premiere this weekend as part of a 25th anniversary celebration for Bortoszek's company, Hedwig Dances. Although the piece is based on the performers' memories of crucial events in their own lives, it's surprisingly cohesive. The dancers repeat and respond to one another's actions, creating the sense of a collective, interactive reminiscence rather than a disjointed series of personal episodes. Movable, semitransparent screens by sculptor Barbara Cooper create nooks and corners, and digital artist Petra Bachmaier of Luftwerk provides projections of ghostly white shadows. Andrea Miller's *Dust*, a midwestern premiere, is also psychologically suggestive, but the dancing is much cruder and more turbulent than in *Dance of Forgotten Steps*. Miller's duet was tailor-made for Hedwig performers Michel Rodriguez and Justin Deschamps, whose relentless roughhousing looks dead serious. Excerpts from Susan Marshall's Felliniesque *Sawdust Palace Suite* complete the bill.

► Thu-Sat 4/1-4/3, 8 PM, Dance Center of Columbia College, 1306 S. Michigan, 312-369-8330 or colum.edu/dance_center, \$24-\$28, \$50 for 4/3 performance followed by "Birthday Party" benefit. —Laura Molzahn