



Juky 25, 2001

Some Maybes

DANCE PREVIEW

By Kelly Clarke

Conduit's Emerging Artist Series presents local choreographer and dancer Laura Kleeman's smooth new work, *Sic et Non* (that's "yes and no" for you non-mediaevalists). This dance-Cuisinart deftly chops and blends bits of ballet, abstract modern and hip-hop into a cranked-up examination of contradiction in everything from Peter Abelard's religious ramblings to hard-core physics, forming (and I quote) a piece "rippling and quaking with sensuality, paradox and intrigue."

Not surprisingly, a critique can be found using the work's very theme. Due to the constant need both to reaffirm the opposing qualities of movement (i.e. quick/slow, hard/soft) as well as showcasing their common bonds, the work, at times, seems to muffle the contentious power of the very opposition it's aiming for.

Fortunately, *Sic et Non's* sextet of local dancers fill out Kleeman's classically controlled jazz-modern hybrid nicely. Well matched, she and her dancers command attention even when the piece does not. A lovely look at the yin and yang of the body, *Sic et Non* itself wavers between fully realized expression and potential greatness.