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They dance to a different beat

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David Gordon and his "post-modern dance" group, the Pick-Up Co., specialize in "repertory without predictable format." While striving for freedom of expression, taking bits and pieces out of other performances to put together a new and spontaneous evening of dance, the group has a certain rigidity of its component parts that lessens the impact while heightening the quality of instant recognition of wit.

The marvelously delicate movements of David Gordon's hands, for instance, could suggest classic mime, a leaf, a shadow, a butterfly. But without changing the effect of the hand movements, he bursts into song, off-key, as if

to himself, singing snatches of *Second Hand Rose*.

The solid body movements of the small group suggest any number of characters and, sometimes an interchangeable cast. At one point, with sound effects, there is a car wreck, complete with tearing metal and screaming sirens, with a chorus of movement, of infinite detail and variety.

David Gordon conducted a workshop of ideas prior to the performance, talking about his use of short segments of movement to form new sequences of events. He has something new to say in the vocabulary of dance, and he says it with remarkable control and understatement.

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