

thINKingDANCE

Upping the ante on dance coverage and conversation

It's Not a Whatever Business.

By Anna Drozdowski

In a rare moment that brought together parts of the dance world that don't often cross paths, William Forsythe spoke about his work in the ballet last month. Tony donors and ballet aficionados (almost) rubbed elbows at the Arts Bank alongside contemporary choreographers and dancers of most stripes.

The chatter was honest and as fast moving, just as layered and dense as Forsythe's movement. Clearly having had much time to think about his particular place in the dance cannon over a long and varied career, he was eloquent in both word and gesture and smartly articulate about where his interests lie.

These are the phrases and particles of thought that rose to the surface that afternoon and remain lodged in my brain some weeks later. Taken chronologically as I notated, I offer this strange *Cliff's Notes* to the conversation: a bread-crumb-trail of classicism in our contemporary world that is more sidewalk-sketch-artist than court reporter.

Chorus Line

Rolling Stones

fanny pack

Cy Twombly

line, sensation, realization

diachromatic

mental : physical

mechanical mastery

questioning = alive

what person / how person

feeling--image

defeat language

threshold

Nothing fails like success.

two axis

training v. practice

balance : tension

Look everywhere!

Artifact

Kirstein

classically dialectic

unisono agreement

It's not a normal ballet company.

dumb shit

academy of poecy

You don't chat in church.

Look at people.

ownership opportunities

cuts like film

Magritte

The proof is in the pudding.

\$1 first-ring Balanchine

sublime musicianship

Funk is a way to be.

Damien Hirst

Little Buck

You Tube

bodily time

collective time

whole stage

21+ dramaturgs

love & loss

delight

Ideas are pleasurable.

mortal everyday

a letter to her

They had to be made.

Where to look?

musical organism

movement choir

(live) real choreographer

something "other"

Methods that saved our butts...

like a cat

A leader that I'd want my kids to have.

threshold (again)

autonomy, authority, conflict, health

powerful, magical force

It's not a whatever business.

The symposium *Fold, Collapse, and Shift: Ballet and Beyond in the Choreography of William Forsythe* was held May 30, 2013 at the Arts Bank. Moderated by Dr. Linda Caruso Haviland, Director of Dance and Alice Carter Dickerman Director of the Arts Program at Bryn Mawr College with panelists included Freya Vass-Rhee, PhD, Dramaturg and Production Assistant for The Forsythe Company and Jennifer Homans, author of *Apollos Angels: A History of Ballet*.

[See Kirsten Kaschock's response to the PA Ballet's performance of *Artifact Suite* here.](#)

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