

InQUAD 2018: From Serene to Zany

• August 25, 2018

inQUAD

Dixon Place - New York, NY

August 17, 2018

Neville Dance Theatre: *Eclipse*; *Geodes* (excerpt)

LL Moves: *The Distance Between Two Points*; *Attachments*

kamrDANCE: *Defining Characteristics* (adapted version)

Inclined Dance Project: *Sometimes I Can't Find My Good Habits*

By Jerry Hochman

This year's edition of inQUAD, presented by Inclined Dance Project (IDP) at Dixon Place on the border of Soho and the Lower East Side, featured a quartet of emerging dance companies at varying accomplishment levels. What distinguished this group from others in the series is my familiarity with most of the participating companies: with one exception, I've seen examples of each choreographer's work previously. The program included two dances each by Neville Dance Theatre and LL Moves, and one each by kamrDANCE and the host company.



Neville Dance Theatre dancers
Tanya Trombly and John Durbin
in Brenda Neville's "*Eclipse*".
Photo by: Andrew J. Mauney

I've seen Neville Dance Theatre on several prior occasions, and have found Artistic Director Brenda Neville's choreography to be **intelligently uncluttered, and dominated by a sense of lyricism** that, while not cutting edge or overly complex, is pleasing to the eye. The two dances that NDT presented at this inQUAD engagement provided more of the same.

To music by popular British composer and pianist Helen Jane Long, the program's opening dance, *Eclipse*, is intended (according to the program note) to show the effect of objects eclipsing and obscuring one another. To me, that description is far too limiting. Sure there are points in which one (or more) dancers obscure others, but in Neville's piece that seems at best an insignificant obscuring framework. Much more important is the **unfussy sequencing** as the four dancers (Michelle Siegel, Amanda Summers, Tanya Trombly, and John Durbin), often spread one behind the other in a vertical line that sets up the "eclipse" connection (like aligned planets, I suppose), then separate out in various combinations, and then return. **It's a nice, unpretentious, serene little ballet.**



Neville Dance Theatre dancers
(l-r) John Durbin, Kaylee Tang,
Michelle Siegel and Amanda Summers
in Brenda Neville's "*Geodes*"
Photo by Andrew J. Mauney

Later in the program, the company returned with *Geodes*, which as the program note indicates, is the "Earth" segment of an evening-length Neville piece, *Elements*. As a visualization of qualities of various minerals (Labradorite, Agate, Amethyst and Rhodocrosite), and abetted by projections of the geodes themselves (in their natural state) and colorful costumes (by Yuliya Lobach and the company) that mimic the geodes' respective blue / amber / purple / burgundy colors, **the piece works**. And in this piece the partnering, at times problematic in other NDT pieces I've seen, was **executed smoothly and without any evident lack of confidence**. **These geodes** may not be as brilliant as jewels, but they **glow in their own way**. Kaylee Tang and Durbin, Summers and Siegel, and Trombly and Quinn Jaxon **brought the respective crystals to life**.