

# DANCE INSIDER

(USA)

December 6, 2006

## LETTER FROM NEW YORK

Valerie Green's "The Shedding," seen at the 92nd Street Y on November 12, also investigates the difficult chambers of the human heart. Green's six dancers often look at themselves and each other as if at the dawn of the world, not quite sure if they're flesh or mud, struggling for awareness within a vocabulary of gravity and earthiness. The sense of sacred space is strengthened by Alon Nechustan's score of lingering thrums, snorts and echoes while Green and her tribe huddle and fall, part animal and part anima. When they interact, their touch contains both challenge and nurture.

Before forming her company, Dance Entropy, in 1998, Green danced with the Wellspring Project and Gloria McLean's Life-Dance. So it might be easy to jump to a conclusion and see this work only as a descendant of Erick Hawkins. While there is a clear respect for the somewhat neglected simplicity and humanistic parables of Hawkins in it, the lineage shares space organically with Green's personal concerns. This is as good a time as any for remembering the authority and legitimacy of the individual body. "The Shedding" finds that in the ordinary, profound and necessary search for authenticity, physical, emotional and intellectual abilities need equal shares.

Chris Dohse