

26/1/95

The Yorkshire Evening Press

Review

Intercourse, Vincent Dance Theatre, York Arts Centre.

INTERCOURSE came loaded with forthright language and nudity. No surprises, then, that a full house should ensue, along with late phonecalls from the dirty-mac brigade, excited by the prospect of seeing a man and woman perform Intercourse on stage at 8pm. But this was no porn show dressed up as art. Gregory Nash's production was an intelligent, electric piece of physical theatre exploring the complex world of sexual possession.

With the opening evidence of the OJ Simpson trial fresh in the mind, what an appropriate time for Sheffield's Vincent Dance Theatre to be on tour.

Intercourse takes the work of feminist writer Andrea Dworkin as its starting point: sex does not begin with a level playing field; instead it is subject to male ownership, power and deviancy. Before anyone says Oh no, that anti-male stuff again, this performance goes on to acknowledge the "fragile human quest for intimacy and kindness".

Throughout, dancers Charlotte Vincent and Harry Theaker express both physical strength and tenderness and troubled inner feelings.

There has to be a brutal scene of male domination, to show the worst consequences of man's abuse of his physical supremacy. But Intercourse goes on to suggest - through a series of reflective solo pieces - that today men and women are equally in turmoil about that state of affairs.

The ideal state of affairs, the show argues, would be for man and woman to come together but be able to pull apart afterwards. However, as Intercourse acknowledges, that is an ideal fraught with risks and complications.

Charles Hutchinson

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