

**QUATORZE [FOURTEEN]:
David Wampach says, "Let the games begin –"**

QUATORZE is perhaps a bit much, I think TEN might be better. Yes, it's as if these twenty-something dancers were really fifth graders.

They are two girls and two boys, bodies in the full flower of their age, clad only in skintight, transparent fishnets. They play, they run after each other, they catch each other, they play at doing what adults do, they play at scaring each other, at yelling, at crying, at make-believe dancing. Giggles and games: all of it staged by David Wampach.

But there is also Berlioz' *Symphonie Fantastique*, grumbling and rumbling upstage and suggesting a far more classical context. With its labyrinth of dark curtains as a set, you cannot help thinking of forests and cantering wood-nymphs, all of it lit from above, seeming to highlight the dancers' white bodies, in the style of a Dutch master's painting.

The work may be slightly off-putting at first but it wraps up delightfully, with a few references to another Wampach work, the excellent BASCULE: a simple, box-like set, playful costumes (again designed by Rachel Garcia) which hide just enough while revealing a gentle irreverence toward other human beings.

One gossip-y question: is it possible that Wampach is nostalgic about his own adolescence?

QUATORZE by David Wampach premiered on June 28, 2007 at the Montpellier Dance Festival and was also performed on December 5, 2007 at the Salle Jacques Brel in Fontenay-sous-Bois under the auspices of the Biennale de Danse du Val de Marne.

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-- Jérôme Delatour