

THE RISE AND FALL OF MONTPELLIER DANSE '07

QUATORZE

Politics come up again with the young French choreographer **David Wampach** (pronounced "von-pack"), -- subliminally instead of explicitly. His piece *Quatorze* was presented at the Chai du Terral, consisting of a quartet, two women and two men – nearly naked, wearing almost transparent costumes, effectively walled in by a set of dark grey, rather threatening curtains.

There is movement in all directions, we flash to a veritable horde of dancers, or at least a small one. There are images of babies hanging on in their playpens, adolescents clearly incapable of autonomy, regular citizens. The metaphor of social or professional condition surfaces. Perhaps it is contemporary dance which is unable to escape this abandon? It is true that the choreographer has spoken about "concrete research on the concept of permission." He is not whining, just presenting the situation. One might say he is *regressing*, but it is unclear how exactly. Is this the regression that happens in psychoanalysis, a necessary component in self-exploration, which in the best of cases helps us to comprehend the order of things, or the more wide-spread notion of just giving in to the impulsive "whatever," the avoidance of reflection? We prefer to believe the first hypothesis, but only the future will tell. This piece came in with a lot of buzz, as his previous piece was a popular success – some people were disappointed.

We hope the choreographer continues on his journey, clearly a promising and interesting path, and that he does not listen to the censors. The feeling that he is bringing us into a new world -- remains strong.

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