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ARTS

THE WEEK AHEAD

STEPHEN PETRONIO is not, perhaps, praised quite enough for his consistent ambition. Although his movement style, with its visceral whipping limbs and rippling torsos, is instantly identifiable, he almost always tries to stretch himself and his dancers beyond what they know. And while many choreographers of Mr. Petronio's stature can call on big-name collaborators, his choices always seem like deeply felt, adventurous ones.

Beginning on Tuesday Mr. Petronio offers a marvelously rich program. A new piece for 11 dancers, "THE ARCHITECTURE OF LOSS," is set to an original score by the Icelandic composer Valgeir Sigurdsson, with contributions by Nico Muhly, and features images by Rannva Kunoy, a painter from the Faroe Islands who is based in London. Equally intriguing is the prospect of two solos, each offering an unexpected meeting of dance minds: Mr. Petronio himself in a reimagining of Steve Paxton's 1970 "Intravenous Lecture," a meditation on censorship; and, thrillingly, the New York City Ballet principal Wendy Whelan (only Tuesday through Friday) in Mr. Petronio's "Ethersketch 1," based on a solo from his 2003 "Underland." 7:30 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, Joyce Theater, 175 Eighth Avenue, at 19th Street, Chelsea, (212) 242-0800, joyce.org; \$10 to \$59.

--Roslyn Sulcas