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Arts

Bad boy still good

By CLIVE BARNES

STEPHEN Petronio is still — at almost precisely 49 years old — one of dance's badder boys and it seems remarkable that he has now had his own company for 20 years.

How long does it take a guy to join the Establishment?

Yet still on the edge of the edge,

DANCE REVIEW

STEPHEN PETRONIO

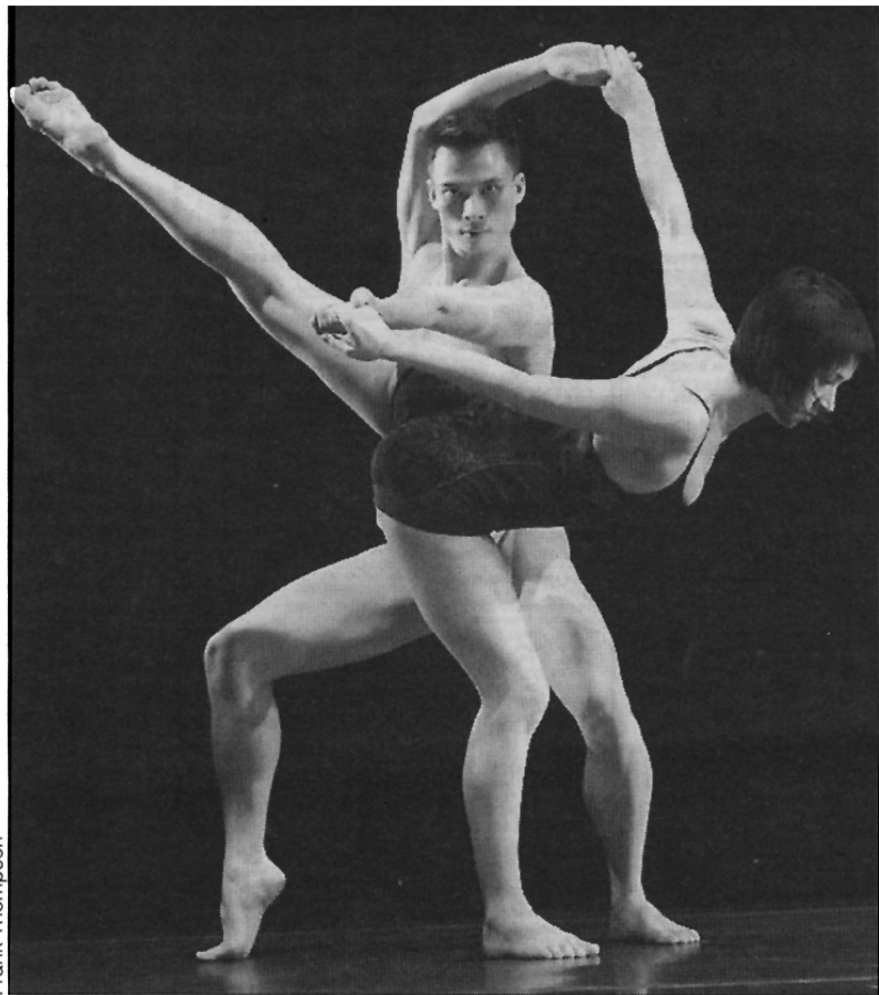
*Joyce Theater, Eighth Avenue at 19th St.
(212) 242-0800. Through March 27.*

Petronio on Tuesday night brought his nine-dancer troupe, the Stephen Petronio Company, back to the Joyce Theater for its annual New York visit and offered something in the way of a retrospective.

Temporarily abandoning his recent collaborations with Laurie Anderson and Lou Reed, he is here offering a brief program of four works that run the chronological gamut from 1990 to a world premiere.

The program opens with "Prelude," dating from 2000, an all-but-stationary frieze-like essay in synchronized group movement to music by Placebo that achieves both the ingenuity and the monotony of a cuckoo clock.

Rather better was the fleet minimalism of "Lareigne" (1995) to an electronic score by David Linton. But the evening really got hot and going after the intermission with the oldest and newest works.



Frank Thompson

A pair of Stephen Petronio dancers perform his dazzling "MiddleSexGorge."

The world premiere is "bud," to music by Rufus Wainwright.

The first part of a new work, "Bloom," due next year, it is male duet, fiercely danced by Thang Dao and Gino Grenek, full of imagination and invention.

The evening ended with "MiddleSexGorge," a kinetically riotous and dazzling danced piece from 1990 to music by the British post-punk band Wire, neatly suggesting gender equality underlined by dance brilliance.