

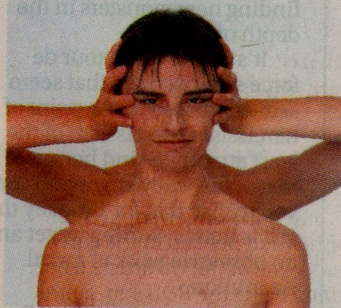
The Sunday Age, Agenda/Review – Sunday 29 September, 2002
Review by Neil Jillett and Image

Melt

Where Chunky Move Studios, South Melbourne **When** Last performance at 5pm today **Tickets** \$25 **Bookings** 9527 4876

This program by Lucy Guerin and her small Melbourne company is divided into two 30-minute parts. The first is an entertaining exercise in gently absurdist dance and mime; the second has some mildly interesting patches, but mainly teeters on the brink of tedium.

The opening duet illustrates the way changes in temperature affect people. The meticulously rehearsed performers, Stephanie Lake and Ros Warby, are unfalteringly in sync with the abrupt changes in Francois Tetaz's burbling, crackling



soundtrack and the flickering squiggles of Michaela French's projected design. Lake and Warby scarcely move beyond a square metre of floor space and restrict movement to their upper bodies but the result is a comic, constantly changing

interplay of light, shadows, grotesque or deadpan facial expressions and seemingly boneless flesh.

In the solemn and more psychologically ambitious second half, which is billed as examining "warmth and chilliness in human relationships", the choreography does little more than draw attention to the five dancers' unflattering costumes.

Although *Melt* is a disappointing sequel to the complex perfection of Guerin's *The Ends of Things* (at the 2000 Melbourne Festival), it has considerably more originality of mood and movement than most local choreographers can muster.

Neil Jillett

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