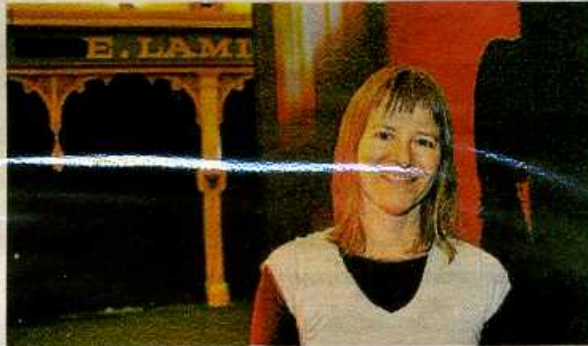


Sunday Age M-Magazine
22/3/09



UNTRAINED

By Lucy Guerin. Season ended.

There's something intrinsically funny about grown men dancing like idiots. The latest work by Lucy Guerin (above) exploits this truth, but beneath the surface there's more at stake than laughs. Sure, it had audiences falling out of their seats with laughter, and the premise alone suggests great comic potential: two of Melbourne's best dancers are teamed with two guys completely lacking in dance training. The chumps in question — visual artists Simon Obarzanek and Ross Coulter — make clumsy attempts to imitate Antony Hamilton and Byron Perry's moves, and it's a guilty pleasure to see them fail. But failure isn't really what animates this show. It's the subtle dignity of dudes who are willing to fall over in public. The many exercises which make up the piece — from improv games to portrait-drawing — slowly dismantle the idea of good v bad dancing. A revealing moment comes when one of the superior dancers describes his envy of the untrained, wishing he could return to that uninhibited way of moving. And, besides the giggles, *Untrained* is a deeply moving work that deserves another turn on the dance floor.

M

preview 18

March 22, 2009

1/22/09