

Foursome creates sublime mix

Untrained

AC Arts, until tomorrow

LUCY Guerin's *Untrained* is a hugely enjoyable work, bringing together and fully exploiting the theatrical potential of two superb dancers and two other artists from outside the performing sphere.

Untrained incorporates a basic movement vocabulary and a great deal of improvisation, much of which is very amusing, as in the sequences where the untrained attempt to mimic the trained, a formidable challenge when either of the dancers, Antony Hamilton and Byron Perry, let loose.

It's a mark of the respect the four performers have for each other that the untrained, visual artists Ross Coulter and Simon Obarzanek, are not belittled by their manifest inability



to match the phenomenal skill of two of Australia's best dancers.

If the challenge for the untrained is great at times, the trained don't get it all their own way. Two scenes where Obarzanek and Coulter improvise on the dancers, especially

Obarzanek's live photographs are taxing in the other direction.

The delight of all four performers is evident and infectious, to the extent that Perry failed entirely to keep a straight face at the hilarious attempts to keep up with the dancing Joneses.

Laugh, and the whole world laughs with you.

The sole set piece of the night, a closing quartet, is a stroke of genius, bringing the trained and untrained together in a show that was otherwise a very individual affair.

Peter Burdon