

Dance in Review



By Jennifer Dunning

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'Falling Angels' Lisa Giobbi and Timothy Harling Atlantic Theater
336 West 20th Street Chelsea

It is clear that a great deal of thought, imagination and work went into "Falling Angels," a new full-evening piece by Lisa Giobbi and Timothy Harling that was presented on Saturday night. Ms. Giobbi and Mr. Harling, who call themselves the Motion Pictures Movement Theater, are expert trapeze artists as well as dancers. In their newest piece, they have created a suite of arresting, dreamlike images. But not all of those well-conceived images take flight, and some are sustained past the point of magic.

"Falling Angels" opens with a sensuous, daring adagio duet for the two, who cling and slip about each other's bodies suspended from a trapeze. After the first of many blackouts, they sit face to face on separate trapezes, swinging frenetically in what appears to be either passion or anger.

They might be Adam and Eve, separated and driven mad by the

apple's bitter knowledge. But there is no clear narrative. Instead, scenes succeed each other in which four monks swing and scurry, Ms. Giobbi swings in space with no visible means of support and Mr. Harling portrays a savage who rapes the limp, bare-breasted child-woman with whom he dances, in a new twist on an old circus act. Eventually, Ms. Giobbi grows handsome wings that also serve as walking sticks.

The cast also includes Kelly Drummond, Eric Handman, Adele Myers and Ed Tyler. "Falling Angels" is set to a commissioned score by Hayley Moss and G. E. Stinson, with additional music that ranges from Philippine montagnard vocals to Irving Berlin. The lighting is by Donnalee Katz and Mitch Levine. The piece will be performed again Wednesday through Saturday. JENNIFER DUNNING

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