

The New York Times

DANCE REVIEW

Social Bees Fluttering to Bach's Sonatas



Dusan Tynek Dance Theatre at the Brooklyn Lyceum.

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Published: June 14, 2008

The Czech choreographer Dusan Tynek is a bit of an anomaly nowadays: he makes dances, formal ones, set to Baroque music that burst with leaps, turns and lifts. A former competitive ballroom dancer, Mr. Tynek ended up at [Bard College](#), where he studied with Aileen Passloff, and later went on to dance with the [Merce Cunningham](#) Repertory Understudy Group and Lucinda Childs. He has, in dance terms, been around the block.

For his company's latest season, which opened on Thursday night at the Brooklyn Lyceum, Mr. Tynek presents two works that reflect that history: "Fleur-de-lis," a painterly dance from 2007, and "Apian Way," a premiere. Both are striking for their architectural rigor and fervid movement invention.

In “Fleur-de-lis,” set to violin sonatas by Heinrich von Biber, Mr. Tynek strives on the surface for a quality of air and light. But as fond as he is of sending his dancers gliding through space — fast — Mr. Tynek is also engrossed with the possibilities of weight. Much of his plush movement is based on opposition, or the tension created when dancers draw energy from the floor and pull away from it.

The new “Apian Way,” paired to sonatas and partitas by Bach, takes the social interaction of [bees](#) as its point of departure. Wearing Oana Botez-Ban’s crinkled metallic-green costumes — each cinched at the waist by a black corset — seven dancers swarm the stage, propelling their arms in windmill circles and flicking their wrists like wings.

For most of the dance, Mr. Tynek’s forcefulness is insistent. A trio featuring him, Matthew Dailey and Aaron Walter boldly showcases the dancers flinging their bodies across the stage and against one another. In his quest to cover as much space as possible — while still pausing to make room for allegro details, like a slow attitude punctuated with quarter-turn plies — Mr. Tynek can overwhelm the stage with too many ideas. He has only seven bodies, including his own, at his disposal, but Mr. Tynek is the rare choreographer whose vision would soar with a dozen more.

Dusan Tynek Dance Theatre performs on June 17, 19, 24 and 26 at the Brooklyn Lyceum, 227 Fourth Avenue, at President Street, Park Slope; brooklynlyceum.com.