



SAVAGE PHOTOGRAPHY

Hennessey, Scully, and Houston-Jones practice 'Unsafe' dance.

If you were in the audience at Dance Place for *Heat* a couple of years ago, then you know Keith Hennessey is not afraid to incorporate his gay activism and concern about the AIDS epidemic into controversial, often shocking pieces.

This month, the dancer-choreographer returns to Dance Place, along with colleagues Patrick Scully and Ishmael Houston-Jones, for a new, no less controversial piece, titled *Unsafe/Unsuited* (*A High Risk Meditation*). It is a disturbing look at the dangerous liaisons gay men seek out in the shadow of the epidemic.

The piece is primarily based on the form of dance called contact improvisation, with interpolated dialogue, but one issue central to most contact improvisation pieces—trust—seems to have all but disappeared.

While their movements are occasionally playful and even seductive, most of the time the three men, sometimes naked, hurtle into space, with little or no interest in being there to catch each other. They engage in spitting

contests, wiping the saliva off one another, and at times seem determined to inflict hurt.

Hennessey, from San Francisco, and Scully, from Minneapolis, are both co-founders of dance companies—CONTRABAND and Contactworks, respectively—and are involved with alternative performance venues. Houston-Jones, who regularly performs and teaches in New York and specializes in improvised dance, has collaborated with artists in many other fields such as filmmaker Julie Dash

DANCE

'High Risk' Dance; Towson Series Revived

BY D. C. CULBERTSON

(*Daughters of the Dust*), and photographer Robert Flynt; he even makes an appearance in the John Sayles film *The Brother from Another Planet*.

Unsafe/Unsuited, whose aim is described as "to identify queer contributions to contact and improvised performance," was originally commissioned by the Jerome Foundation and Minneapolis' Walker Art Center and has been seen at P.S. 122 in New York, Jump-Start in San Antonio and Diverseworks in Houston.

Unsafe Unsuited Review Baltimore Alternative 1996

UNSAFE/UNSUITED

Keith Hennessey,
Patrick Scully,
and Ishmael Houston-Jones
Dance Place, 3225 8th St., NE
Washington (202) 269-1600
Tickets: \$10 (gen),
\$8 (stu/sen/mem)
Sat., March 23, at 8 p.m.;
Sun. March 24, at 7:00 p.m.

ANITA FELDMAN TAP and TAPPERS WITH ATTITUDE

Dance on the Edge
Stephens Hall Theatre
Towson State Univ.
(410) 830-ARTS
Tickets: \$15 (gen.),
\$12 (stu/sen)
\$8 (TSU stu.)
Sat., March 30, at 8 p.m.

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BALTIMORE
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