

## An excerpt from The Boston Herald:

# Leaps and stumbles mark year for Hub companies

By Theodore Bale/Dance

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The local modern dance scene, in a muddy period, didn't fare as well. Last January I wrote, "If more of the choreography presented in 2003 turns out to be as elegant, erudite and emphatic as Brian Crabtree's 'The Way We Look Forward,' it's going to be a great year for dance in Boston." Well, it wasn't exactly a terrific year, but there were several reasons to rejoice.

Three of the area's most prominent companies reached important milestones. Nicola Hawkins Dance Company celebrated its 10th anniversary with a big repertory concert, as did Prometheus Dance on its 15th birthday. Dance Collective's impressive 30th anniversary program at Boston University held the most important solo made in Boston this year, Dawn Kramer's demonstrative "Re/Deconstruction." Few dances manage to present such a far-reaching physical and psychological journey in just 10 minutes, flawlessly constructed and full of powerful surprises.

Too often, younger choreographers showed us short, dull repertory pieces set to classical music, too imitative of Mark Morris' style. **There were noteworthy exceptions, however, including Kate Digby's forceful "Absolute Zero," Kelley Donovan's chain-reaction event "No Such Thing as a True Story" and Caitlin Corbett and Ann Steuernagel's well-structured "Cowboy, Red."** Hoi polloi's post-modern lap dances at Zuzu last month prove it is serious about finding new ways to connect with its audience, and Peter DiMuro's work-in-progress show at Boston University asserted the force of "dancing what you know."

Finally, three touring companies showed us vital developments in the form, each emphasizing dance as a vital social ritual. The first was Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company's gorgeous collaborations with the Orion String Quartet, presented by FleetBoston Celebrity Series. CRASHarts brought the other two - Eiko and Koma's restorative "Offering" and "Snow," and Rennie Harris' unforeseen expansion of hip-hop "Facing Mekka."