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weekend

Oldies but goodies

Veteran dancers point the way

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REVIEW. The loudest cheers at Tuesday's opening of the DancenOw Festival went to the oldest dancers and choreographers. Art Bridgman and Myrna Packer are masters of the complex marriage between film and live performance; their "Under the Skin" creates an entire swinging ensemble out of just the two of them, a slotted screen and multiple video images by Peter Bobrow and Jim Monroe, to music by Ken Field.

Six veterans of Murray Louis' troupe (Michael Blake, Janis Brenner, Betsy Fisher, Peter Kyle, Sara Pearson and Robert Small) turn in a smashing revival of his 1974 "Porcelain Dialogues," honoring the choreographer's 80th birthday. Seniors sparkle in Larry Keigwin's "Finger Suite" (Blake, Keith Sabado, Valda Setterfield) and a work-in-progress by Gus Solomons jr (Solomons, Hope Clarke, Carmen de Lavallade), both pieces resplendent in costumes by Oana Botez-Ban.

Five soloists perform their own and others' dances, demonstrating that parenthood and advancing years can enrich expressive skills. Donlin Foreman's new "Self-Portrait w/Ghosts" is haunted by his years with Martha Graham, while Claire Porter reclaims her graphic "Interview," made this year for Trey Gillen. Mary Cochran pouts through Sara Hook's 1998 "Rue," to Schubert, and Megan Williams throws



"Rue" performed by Mary Cochran.

herself into the premiere of Helen Pickett's "One Captured Kiss." Still in progress and already compelling is Johannes Wieland's new solo for Isadora Wolfe, who tries to show us happiness.

Group works by Neta Pulvermacher and Guta Hedwig — involving talking, singing, calisthenics and a painting passed from hand to hand — seem to lose focus, especially in contrast to the sleek performances by the older dancers on the bill.

This program repeats Saturday, when it includes David Parker showing dances from 1990 and this minute; his new piece is a quartet to songs from Irving Berlin's "Annie Get Your Gun." The DancenOw Festival continues through Monday and includes dance, film and video in DTWs' gallery, along with site-specific pre-show works.

'40Up'

Saturday, 7-30 p.m.
DancenOw | NYC
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