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THE Arts

Raindrops on Roses and Riffs on a Classic

Doug Elkins's "Fraulein Maria" could easily become a holiday ritual for hipsters of all ages. Performed on Saturday afternoon at Joe's Pub, the hourlong show was essentially a festive party put together

JENNIFER DUNNING

DANCE REVIEW

by downtown dancers and choreographers, among them Mr. Elkins, David Parker, the deliciously poker-faced Keeley Garfield, and the irrepressible Arthur Aviles and Jennifer Nugent. There are moments akin to party lampshade-donning, but the suite of enacted songs from the soundtrack to "The Sound of Music" were mostly enjoyably and even affectionately cheeky sendups of that musical's lyrics and characters.

After a thundering taped overture of the sort that was once a glamorous hallmark of the Broadway musical, the party began with two bearers of tiny, lighted Christmas trees suddenly sprouting from the ringside audience. A skirted Mr. Aviles gambols through to join them, his shaved head glowing with reflected stage lights. A



Ruby Washington/The New York Times

The hills are alive! Arthur Aviles in "Fraulein Maria," at Joe's Pub.

genuinely sweet finale — set to "So Long, Farewell" of course — ended the afternoon with waves and cheers and a small boy pushing forward from the audience to present his performing mother with a bouquet.

Mr. Parker was very funny as a winsome young virgin in "Sixteen Going on Seventeen," too trusting of

Fraulein Maria

Joe's Pub

a lascivious guide to womanhood played by a priapic Archie Burnett. Mr. Elkins writes affectingly in program notes of his childhood love for the musical and his delight in watching his toddler son enjoy it too. And his star turn to "Climb Ev'ry Mountain" is a stand-alone solo that nearly defines his distinctively slippery, fluid way with merged popular and modern-dance forms. The roly-poly, bounding chorus — Carolyn Cryer, Krista Jansen, Alexis Murphy and Charemaine Seet — was another pleasure, in a cast completed by Nicole Wolcott, Mark Gindick and Johnnie Moore.

But that little boy — and the astonishingly agile, good-natured waiters making their way through the crowd of cabaret-style tables and bursting Christmas shopping bags without a spill — also played their role in making "Fraulein Maria" charming.