

Stepping out to Bay Area dance events

Rachel Howard, Chronicle Dance Correspondent

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Sean Dorsey Dance

Sometimes deeply transgressive material is most powerful when it's channeled into non-transgressive, almost conventional form, and that's the case with San Francisco's **Sean Dorsey**. **Dorsey** is gender-ambiguous, tilting toward male, and uses the pronoun "he." His dances are usually about the female-to-male transgender experience, as were the two premieres on "Lost/Found" Saturday at Dance Mission Theater, rounded out with storytelling by writers Kirk Read and Max Wolf Valerio.

Dorsey tells stories too, in a plainspoken, warmhearted style. He then records them and lays them over a collage of sweet, warm-hearted music. His further brilliance is to bring these stories to life with an uncanny knack for matching movement to the rhythms of speech and planting simple but pungent gestures that have the innocent charm of a parent reading to you at bedtime.

Formally, there is nothing rule-breaking in what **Dorsey's** doing, and that's the point. In the better of the two new pieces, **Dorsey** plays a transgender guy who discovers a straight male teenager's diary and tries to vicariously relive his childhood through it, imagining that the insecurities would be utterly different, and discovering that they are strikingly the same (including, very funnily, a fixation on George Michael).

To be transgender is to be deeply human, **Dorsey's** stories say, and so does his absolutely non-ironic, non-confrontational delivery. Perhaps proclaiming artistic sameness rather than difference is the most radical move of all. The dancing was lush and tender, with ODC alum Brian Fisher as the diary boy, and James Graham as a high school queen in the other premiere, "Bullied."