

LA WEEKLY

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Review: The Secret History Of Love

By Paul Birchall



THE SECRET HISTORY OF LOVE Female-to-male transgender artist Sean Dorsey's four-person modern dance opus is performed to a contextual backdrop of recorded voices of elder gay, lesbian and transgendered Americans recalling their memories of the pre-Stonewall era. If you think it's tough for folks today to find a lover in this era of Craigslist, try to imagine what it was like in a time when queer love inevitably came accompanied by a beating from the authorities. It is, of course, a dangerous and often misleading thing to regard the past through the prism of contemporary perception, but Dorsey's evocative, often dreamlike choreography is less about historical pageantry and more about attempting to convey the feelings surrounding the times. The cast of four (including Dorsey) vivaciously essays a series of routines that beautifully convey longing, love and that quality of being haunted... The emotions of the words are compellingly matched by the dancers' elegant movements.

Highways Performance Space, 1651 18th Street, Santa Monica. (310) 315-1459.