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### Performing Arts: Dance

#### YVONNE RAINER

March 21, 2011

Scale back splashy technique, upload individuals thinking moving and you have a taste of [Yvonne Rainer's](#) live dance musings. A primary architect of the American post modern dance movement, the Lady of the 1970's Judson Group, presented two amiable works at the [Baryhsnikov Arts Center](#). Drawn to the "process" of making dances, Rainer creates a defining movement map filled in by performers' bodies and personalities. In this case, the mighty dancer's comrades were Pat Catterson (funniest of all), Emily Coates (technically excellent with an almost perfect dancer's body), Patricia Hoffbauer (smart and muscular), Sally Silvers (kooky individualist), Emmanuelle Phuon (charming, slippery mover) and the only male Keith Sabado (impish and lyrical.)

Movement passages in "Assisted Living: Good Sports 2" (2011) frames the actual dancers with "movers" who reposition furniture, i.e. scenery (mattress, lamp, chair, wind-up Victoria) around the perimeter of the space. Casually walking around, Rainer delivers an even-voiced text that samples quotations from the likes of Lydia Davis, Louis Menand, Rosalyn Deutsche and Lawrence Shainberg.

A dancy soundtrack of pop golden oldies heightens the sense of shared community and individuality. Dancers trail around the space, noodling in and out of personal spaces, dropping into a pile of laughing bodies like a session of "laughter yoga" with Catterson as the deliriously guffawing leader, running and kicking imaginary soccer balls around an ever-changing dance frame. The "movers" Les Dickert and Joel Reynolds recompose the the visuals in counterpoint to the the dancers. Theater lights and overhead lamps positioned on-stage, are manually flipped on and off, outlining human images and adding to the overall whimsical sensibility that seems to question "is it a performance or just folks having fun?"

Presented by Performa.

EYE ON THE ARTS, NY--Celia Ipiotis