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Dance Union: Live review

Posted in [#Chicago blog](#) by [Zachary Whittenburg](#) on Nov 7, 2010 at 3:09pm



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[Aaron Zarutzki](#), [Adam Rose](#), [Andrea Miller](#), [Ayako Kato](#), [Ballet Hispanico](#), [Brian Labycz](#), [Carleen Healy](#), [Carole McCurdy](#), [Chris Wooten](#), [Dance Union](#), [Daniel Fandiño](#), [Hedwig Dances](#), [Kristina Fluty](#), [Szewai Lee](#), [the green pasture happiness](#)

Aaron Zarutzki. Photo: Tom Deater

Across the universe from [Ballet Hispanico the night before](#), the second [Dance Union](#) was held on November 6. Subtitled *Noise & Movement*—fitting her events' stripped style, organizer Ayako Kato doesn't get fancy with the names—it followed a "menu" provided in the program, a score outlining how three musicians and seven dancers would interact over an hour or so. Like the first [Dance Union](#), *Improvisation & Score/Scenario* on October 9, all material was invented on the spot. With panache, Chris Wooten helmed the modest lightboard at the [Fasseas White Box](#), a clean, intimate space around the corner from the [new Apple temple](#). Tickets were twelve bucks, ten for seniors and students.

Like *Improvisation & Score/Scenario*, it was an astounding performance. This is the cutting edge.

[the green pasture happiness](#) (Daniel Fandiño, Brian Labycz and Aaron Zarutzki) filled the room with strange and familiar from shadowed tables of machinery, Labycz (also at *I&S/S*) first and solo. Adam Rose danced, in jeans and a white t-shirt, his square jaw, as almost always, grinding violently and looking like it's going to rip right off of his skull. From a crouch, he flipped over sideways and landed, hard, sitting. Carole McCurdy followed, solo, in a print dress and yoga pants, navigating a space similar to that of *Shoot (a solo she presented in August)* but on a slightly sunnier day. Rose joined her, and they danced a duet ingeniously matched in structure finding parallel paths, mirroring and opposition. Labycz's meticulous synth savagery matched their intensity, but pulled back in counterpoint, both directive and responsive. That was the first of five sections that overlapped in short sittings and standings in low light.

Fandiño and Zarutzki played a civil noise tennis while three women (Kristina Fluty, Carleen Healy and Szewai Lee) emerged, intertwined, from the small bleacher all seven dancers shared. Lee peeled off, and Fluty and Healy slid and rolled along each other's space. Their movement is investigative somatically the way McCurdy and Rose's is emotionally: They move to notice how the joints and muscles respond to complex but unforced situations. It's serious work, but also somehow celebratory; you see and feel love and respect for the miracle of the body. Each also danced a solo.

The complete green pasture happiness united for the duet between [Hedwig Dances](#) members Justin Deschamps and Michel Rodriguez. I noticed similarities in their dynamic to those in *Dust (for Jack)*, a duet by [Andrea Miller](#) they danced earlier in the week at Hamlin Park Fieldhouse and repeat there again this Thursday and Friday. It's brotherly, sparring, fast moving; one often flings the other by the waist or catches and twists a leg. With the audience sitting on three sides and the music loud, it poured on the hot sauce of danger and risk. Both can fly.

The fourth combination was the most complex: Labycz played for Deschamps and Rose, and Fandiño and Zarutzki scored Fluty, Healy and McCurdy. Kato's menu is not the result of a dice roll; these were brilliant juxtapositions.



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Noise & Movement ended sweetly, with the diminutive, polite Lee performing a solo and a duet with Rodriguez. The latter, a jangly tornado of slack limbs, capped the evening with dark fireworks.

Dance Union continues December 4 at the Fasseas White Box Theater with Simply Showing, a presentation of Lisa Frank, Suzy Grant, the Humans and the Moving Architects. 2011 Unions are scheduled for January 8, February 5 and March 5.

NOISE MUSIC BY GREEN PASTURE HAPPINESS.
DANIEL FANDIÑO, BRIAN LABY CZ, AARON ZARZUTZKI

LIGHTING: CHRIS WOOTEN

MENU

SEC 1: W/BRIAN LABY CZ
ADAM ROSE, SOLO
CAROLE MCCURDY, SOLO
ADAM + CAROLE, DUO

SEC 2: W/AARON ZARZUTZKI & DANIEL FANDIÑO
SZE WAI LEE + KRISTINA FLUTY + CARLEEN HEALY, TRIO
KRISTINA + CARLEEN, DUO
CARLEEN, SOLO
KRISTINA, SOLO

SEC 3: W/BRIAN, AARON, DANIEL
JUSTIN + MICHEL, DUO
JUSTIN, SOLO

SEC 4: BRIAN FOR GENTLEMEN, AARON & DANIEL FOR LADIES
JUSTIN + ADAM) X (CAROLE + KRISTINA + CARLEEN)

SEC 5:
SZE WAI, SOLO
SZE WAI + MICHEL, DUO
MICHEL, SOLO

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