

# The New York Times

## DANCE

### Surrounded by Trees and Thoughts of Death

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At the start of RoseAnne Spradlin's "Future Past," Chase Granoff lighted a cigarette and gazed meditatively on the forest of evergreens that served as the setting for this initially cryptic yet increasingly eloquent work. It was one of the few calm moments in a restless production - intensified by chiming and buzzing electronic music by John Bischoff - presented by RoseAnne Spradlin Dance on Wednesday night at Dance Theater Workshop.

Tasha Taylor and Walter Dundervill danced a jittery duet. Soon after, they were joined by Jennifer Kjos, Mina Nishimura and Stephanie Tack in sequences of nervous striding. Dancers kept pushing the trees from side to side, clutched at the branches, fell throbbing to the floor and appeared to be lost in a forest of thoughts.

The action gradually made clear what those thoughts were about. An ensemble of eight guest dancers squirmed about the stage. People repeatedly placed one another in crates resembling coffins. All of these choreographic rushings around the sturdy trees could have been symbols of how fleeting human life can be.

Taped voices began to ponder death, the concepts ranging from death as total extinction to death as some sort of metamorphosis. The evanescence of life was emphasized when dancers waved gleaming but fragile clusters of silver foil and dropped handfuls of glitter from a ladder.

The way Ms. Spradlin made time rush inexorably by made "Future Past" both exciting and sobering to watch.