

ROD RODGERS TROUPE OFFERS A NEW DANCE

Rod Rodgers, the choreographer, is torn between the abstract and the actual. He can create a beautiful exercise in design like "Percussion Suite" or use a contemporary theme successfully as in "Now! Nigga" given its premiere yesterday at Clark Center. But he aspires to a fusion of the two. It is the latter that currently eludes his creative grasp.

"Dances in Projected Space," a work involving six members of the company, appeared to be an attempted synthesis of both elements. Abstract slides were shown interspersed with photographic slides of the portrait dancers while the piece progressed.

As is customary in Rodgers choreography an even relentlessness of attack is punctured with vigorous bounds that subside again into the soft flow of the dance. The "projected space," however, failed to materialize from the mix of elements.

In "Now! Nigga" a battery of sounds, hymns, explosions, sermons and news broadcasts played upon the dancers, who reacted to the various strands and developed a revolutionary stance. It was effective enough, but Mr. Rodgers is on the track of bigger game, and one wishes him success. Among the company one noticed Morris Donaldson and Ronald Pratt, who appear more accomplished at each viewing.

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