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Airborne Antics Amid Trapezes and Gym Bars

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Fish gotta swim, birds gotta fly, but humans don't have to dangle in the air from ropes, trapezes and gymnasts' bars. Nonetheless, four separate groups of dancers did in "Aloft in Space," a program presented Tuesday and Wednesday in the Serious Fun festival at Alice Tully Hall.

Some of the works used movement executed in the air for formal purposes - for its own sake or as part of a structural design. Others aimed at creating dramatic metaphors. Unfortunately, the dancers were not always at home in their medium. How easily the out-of-the-ordinary can be made to look ordinary was evident in the mind-numbing new-age style of music savored by too many of the groups and in the fact that a movement's premise, once stated, was rarely developed.

The best work was Sara Pearson's "FishFlyMonkeySwim" in which four human monkeys swung Tarzan-style from knotted ropes until four others invaded the stage. The breathy score, by Miss Pearson and Dennis Cochrane, the Indian trousers of the performers and the pendulumlike repetition of the ropes' swinging rhythm as well as the weightless circling of the performers made for a gentle ritualistic atmosphere. The performers were Miss Pearson, Eric Diamond, Susan Hefner, Rocio Infante, Mary Sonntag, Patrik Widrig, Alberto Del Saz and James Murphy.