

VOICE February 22, 1994

Space Cases

By Elizabeth Zimmer

Sara Pearson/Patrik Widrig & Company

At Dance Theater Workshop January 26 through 30

Do You Remember?, Sara Pearson and Patrik Widrig's new dance, also seems to confuse spatial and temporal concerns, grafting dramatic monologues about Latin American political oppression onto a piece that is primarily and happily physical. The dancers bound on and off Carlo Adinolfi's pair of huge box crates like gymnasts on leather horses, clad in brightly painted activewear by designer Amy Downs. Sometimes the stagehands whose main task is moving and tipping the boxes lie down in them to act as ballast.

Marcela Ortiz de Zarate Broughton, a Chilean raised in Mexico City, is a wraithlike presence, telling her devastating story of exile and deportation while Rodrigo Esteva and Jaime Ortega circle the crate on which she sits and then perform a tender duet. The movement itself is free and feeling, evolving in ways that make perfect sense; a bit less clear is the relationship between the movement and Broughton's dispassionately delivered text. A collage of musical accompaniment, ranging from Latin percussion to the chants of the Tallis Scholars. keeps us engaged. The piece's main attraction is watching dancers (Widrig, Pearson, and the wonderfully athletic Lisa Race are the others) do the real work of climbing and hoisting, or ambulating like pack animals across the geometry of the crates.