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An experience in dance

THE American composer and critic Ned Roram has written eloquently of the dilemma of the critic of music concerts which occur only once and then vanish on the wind of time.

That criticism becomes ephemeral as the concerts themselves and cause a crisis of purpose in the critic. Maybe.

This is the pleasure then, in being able to write of musical works which are in a process of development such as the recent *Departure Lounge* and now *Tails East Heads West*.

In reviewing *Departure Lounge*, enhanced and en-

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larged by the addition of the video material, it could be seen that what had been lost from the leaner original performance in emotional impact had been gained in enriched layers of meaning.

So with Jessica Cohen's dance which I first saw last summer and the most recent version of which was presented at Chapter on Tuesday evening.

Jessica Cohen's experiences in Taiwan were so strong that, both literally and figureatively, she must reach out and colour the sky or paint a foot on

the surface of the earth to preserve the moment.

Most of us, surprised by beauty, can be rendered speechless only to forever kick ourselves once the opportunity has passed and we can only cry out mutely for the contact to be re-established.

Cohen is lucky in that she can through her dance recreate her experiences and also that each time, as I see it, the recreation becomes more assured, better focused and, as a consequence, a more satisfying performance.

Tails East Heads West is being repeated at Chapter this evening.