

**Belinda Neave at Dylan Theatre**

# Lonely art of dancer flows with abstracts

By IFAN PAYNE

THE West Glamorgan Dance Project is in progress at the Dylan Theatre, Swansea, this week.

So far the Gregory Nash Group has performed on Monday evening; on Tuesday Cardiff-based Belinda Neave presented *Process* for solo dancer; and on Wednesday, it was the turn of the Swansea Dance Theatre.

In some senses Belinda Neave's vision is the balletic equivalent of the music of Anton Webern, each gesture precisely and tellingly placed in space. Though with the introduction of the poem *I Had a Dream Last Night*, the connection to another artist, who manipulates the temporal and spatial placement of sound, Laurie Anderson was made. This is periodic dancing — music, movement, lighting — and each element is carefully isolated to take its appointed place in the fourfold grid of time and space.

The art of the solo dancer is a lonely one: A communicator who cannot speak, a delineator who cannot draw and an architect who cannot construct. But yet, Belinda Neave's dancing is

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## REVIEW

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extremely architectonic and its spatial delineation.

Her's was an engrossing performance. It was an experience rather akin to seeing images in clouds, or to watching patterns of oily swirls in water form and reform. Her dance is an abstraction of considerably plasticity on which the watchers project their own images.

There was only one weakness in *Process* and this was the final sequence in which her coy, girlish dance to *Tea for Two* was, in its more open emotionality, out of keeping with the rest of this absorbing work in which her blank, yet somehow accusatory stare at the audience as though in admonishment to pay attention, was as emotional as it got.

Belinda Neave, joined by Laurie Booth, will next month tour Bristol, London and other cities with Euroshima.

Dance Week at the Dylan Theatre continues with local youth groups this evening and the Spiral Dance Company on Friday and Saturday.