

Watching and dancing

DANCERS Lisa Kraus and Stephanie Skura gave stimulating performances at the St Donats Arts Centre last night.

The American pair explored the interaction and layers of meaning behind the experiences of chance and choice; of reality and reflected image; of explanation and obscurity; of documentary and fiction.

It was only fitting that the venue was turned inside out for the event which was part of Chapter Arts Centre Festival of American Arts.

The dancers, who made extensive use of video, needed the sprung wooden floor of the body of the auditorium on which to perform. The audience, therefore, were seated on the stage.

Who, then, was on

By IFAN PAYNE

stage? And who was watching whom?

Relevant questions, given that the first dance was called *The Watchers* (made for TV).

This dance was a choreographed investigation of watching, timing by watches, watching TV, watching dancers watching a TV video of themselves dancing while setting their watches to time themselves doing 50 movements in 30 seconds.

It was that kind of experience.

In this first work, Lisa Kraus and Stephanie Skura showed that they were witty and skilful performers, and this impression was confirmed as the evening developed.

The climax came at the end of *Chase Scene* in

which Stephanie Skura danced while Terry Moyemont followed her with a video camera while the live picture was displayed on a large screen behind. The sequence culminated in a haunting, multiple image stretching off into the distance, behind the dancer.

Perhaps the many memorable and provocative parts did not, finally, add up to a cohesive or convincing whole. Perhaps many will not have agreed with the answers provided by the dancers to their self-imposed questions.

But it was important that these dancers displayed a part of the richness of the New York dance scene and to have raised the questions regarding contemporary dance and the nature of the relationship between watcher and performer.