

PRESS REVIEWS



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By Joanna Beresford

“Welcome to the twenty-first century,” says the man in the striped tie to his associate who was, moments ago, slithering along the floor, catching flies with his tongue. Cyrus Khambatta, Artistic Director of The Phfff! Company, and choreographer/performer of “modern Barbarism”, has created a contemporary parable. The text of his story is embodied by two male dancers, who perform their narrative against a field of improvised cello music. When the modern hero meets a primal version of himself, he discovers that not much has changed through the ages; we’re all predators, bred for the jungle. Viewers may feel as if they’ve witnessed an episode of Survivor designed for the urbane and aesthetically inclined. Mr. Khambatta’s message is harsh, but his tone (conveyed through humorous commentary, and a kind of warped, underlying optimism) is warm and invigorating. Providing just the kind of jolt and pleasure we expect from a good cup of coffee - or an innovative dance company from Seattle “Modern Barbarism” was awarded the Daman New Choreographer Award.