

Doubly daring

THEATRE
**TWO FACED
BASTARD**
(Meat Market)

In short: An inventive celebration of abstract dance



EVERY dance work is distinctive and precious, but it's likely you won't have seen anything quite like this before.

Invention is nothing new for contemporary dance company Chunky Move and this work shows that even at the height of creativity and success, the company can still find something new after all these years of artistic endeavour.

Two Faced Bastard sees choreographers Gideon Obarzanek and Lucy Guerin celebrating abstract dance while addressing a lot of the problems audiences have with the medium.

The performance space is divided in two so there are two audiences sitting opposite each other, hidden by a curtain across the centre of the stage.

As we watch Stephanie Lake warm up and begin her dance routine, dancers on the other side



Insightful: Dancers Stephanie Lake and Vincent Crowley star in Chunky Move's new offering.

of the curtain are being interviewed by actor Brian Lipson.

It is a fascinating insight into the artist's mind, often funny and always surprising.

The dancing is excellent and challenging. There must be inspiration from a child in the

choreography because it is very innocent and playful at times. It is also funny and has a new light-hearted tone that I haven't seen before by Chunky Move.

It is an existential work and understanding this helps give the dance context and meaning, though, as some of the dancers

explain in their little interviews, meaning is a difficult destination to reach in abstract dance.

This is a wonderful start to the Melbourne International Arts Festival and shows the great dance team continuing to build on its fervent imagination.

CATHERINE LAMBERT