

Attack Theatre's 'Someplace' is a good place to be

REVIEW

BY MARK KANNY

TRIBUNE-REVIEW

Art casts a lively and wryly sympathetic eye on the dating scene in Attack Theatre's "Someplace, not here," a new show that will be repeated Thursday and Friday at a converted fire station in Garfield.

"Someplace, not here" is a winning combination of high-personality dancing, strong music and multimedia. "A bar" is its generic setting — with the bandstand and bar on a far wall, leaving a large space for dancing. The narrative follows seven characters including the bartender as they try to find someone to be with or withdraw, even if briefly, from the game.

The show opens with six dancers checking each other out. The band Local Honey provides the verbal context, with striking lyrics delivered in a fine low-key style by Becky Corrigan, who was also an evocative guitarist. The rest of the band was good too, including Rob Levkulich, bass, and Eric Webber, drums. Stu Braun's bluesy harmonica was riveting in a long solo after intermission.

Variety kept the show from ever feeling long. The up-tempo dances crackled with energy and edge on a large scale. All the characters were the most superficially appealing in this attitude. New dancers to the company Liz Chang and Ashley Williams fit in seamlessly with Kristin McClintock-LeBeau, Jeff Davis and co-founders and directors Michelle de la Reza and

'Someplace, not here'

Who: Attack Theatre, with Local Honey

When: 8 p.m. Thursday and Friday

Admission: \$18 in advance; \$22 if purchased at the door; \$35 for reserved premium seating and pre-show mixer; \$15 for students and senior citizens

Where: 4801 Penn Ave., Garfield

Details: 412-393-3353

Peter Kope.

Partnering dances had a full variety of outcomes, of course, and come-ons that ranged from tentative to overconfident. Pre-recorded music by David Egarr and Dina Fanal included welcome tango accents.

Multimedia included a reference to role playing by superimposing a new face on one dancer. Another projected element riffed on a "Missed Connections" site.

There was also an amusing parody of those e-mails, including one that provided de la Reza the opportunity to play two characters.

The show's successful creativity applied to predictable situations no less than surprises. A fight scene between Kope and Davis was set up cleanly, found a perfect balance of martial and artistic, and resolved by going back together to the bar for more drinks.

The post-performance reception featured drinks and bar snacks, a large open space, and a wall graffitied with pick-up lines and responses.