



Hysterica Dance Company

PICKS OF THE WEEK

DANCE

HYSTERICA DANCE COMPANY: *VICTORIOUS*

As overused and vague as it is, "intense" remains the adjective of choice for describing Hysterica Dance Company — as the dancers' strained, angst-addled expressions suggested when I recently watched video excerpts of *Victorious*, Kitty McNamee's latest evening-length work. It's unclear what forces the eight-person ensemble combat in the piece, which begins a two-week run at the Open Fist Theater Friday, but battle they do, with sharp thrusts, quick kicks and staccato cyborg cum Tin Man jabs. According to the press release, McNamee is interested in the push and pull between organic and industrialized society, which is enacted almost literally in the push and pull of the duets, freighted with, er, intensity and the inability to consummate contact with each other. There's also mention of restrictive social roles and that ol' emblem of repression, the Victorian era, but in the sections of the dance I saw, the troupe was dressed in futuristic, post-apocalyptic tribal garb, and the only rigidity was the movement, with hungry reaching motions concluding in stiffly extended arms hanging in Frankenstein fashion. At the Open Fist Theater, 1625 N. La Brea Ave., Hlywd.; Fri.-Sat., July 23-24, 8 p.m., & Thurs.-Sat., July 29-31, 8 p.m.; \$20. (323) 882-6912 or www.openfist.org.

LARRY COLEMAN

—Sara Wolf