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DANCE REVIEW | CHASE BROCK EXPERIENCE, REBECCA KELLY BALLET,  
STEFANIE NELSON DANCE GROUP AND VISSI DANCE THEATER

## Amid the Towering Skyscrapers, Unexpected Bursts of Dance



Robin Cantrell and Sean Scantlebury in Rebecca Kelly's "Desire (excerpt)" on Tuesday.

Chase Plaza on Nassau Street in Lower Manhattan is so called because it is the raised open space — flat, amid a section of the city that is all slopes — directly in front of the Chase skyscraper there...

Some of my favorite New York experiences have been of open-air dance that has kept passers-by from passing by. I remember this same effect at Chase Plaza last year, when the 27th annual Downtown Dance Festival gave a daily series of performances there. It was so good to encounter it again on Tuesday — at the 28th annual festival...

Strongest were two male-female duets, Stefanie Nelson's "Venn Duet (did she fall or was she pushed?)" and Rebecca Kelly's "Desire (excerpt)." ...

The main pleasure of Ms. Kelly's "Desire (excerpt)" was simply the fluent decisiveness shown by Robin Cantrell and Sean Scantlebury in a brisk series of appealingly elaborate partnering moves. These two appeared to be the most technically accomplished performers on the program, and the qualities of their technique — firm and precise sculptural shapes, clean and unstrained lifts — made a welcome impression. It's always the man here who partners the woman, and there's no particular sense of them as independent soloists. The accompaniment, music by Apocalyptica that moved from easy listening to heavy metal, did the choreography few favors. But the dance proceeded seamlessly, so that this proved the one item I wished had been longer, and the one I wanted more Chase workers to focus on.

**ALASTAIR MACAULAY** Dance Review