

# DANCE HOUSTON

## Movers and Shakers E\_Merging II



Photography Courtesy of Gabriella Nissen

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Published: April 2008

*E-Merging II* debuted last night with sterling performances by a tight-knit cast of six dancers. Two intense, provocative works were presented, both Houston debuts. Dominic Walsh's *Terminus* showed off the company's perfect bodies and technical prowess, and Gustavo Ramirez Sansano's *Dicese* explored the human body as a form and concept. This concert is not to be missed by serious contemporary dance fans, and it would be enjoyed by all who appreciate exquisite dancing and creative ideas. Collaborating with Walsh in the creative process of *Terminus* were Visual Artist Nicola Parente, Lighting Designer Jeremy Choate, and Two Star Symphony. Parente's paintings and videos create moods that change from scene to scene throughout the work. An exciting visual collaboration unfolds when two of the dancers engage in a painting process of their own. Choate's lighting concepts, though very dark, are bold and complementary of Parente's ambiances. The unusual string ensemble Two Star Symphony performs original compositions created specifically for this work. The first solo sections of this dance were actually choreographed by Walsh without music, and then the Symphony composed music to fit the movements. Two Star's sound is engaging and cool; however, their placement on stage detracts from the overall aesthetic of the artistic set and dancing. As a composition, *Terminus* grows on you, developing slowly but surely as it establishes recognizable gestures that are revisited throughout the work, and pausing for a captivating exploration of soothing, slow-motion movements. It's as technically demanding as dances come, which is exceptionally enjoyable to watch up close and personal from any seat in the intimate setting at Zilkha Hall. Winner of "Best Show" and "Best Choreography" at the Scenic Arts at The Generalitat Valenciana 2005, *Dicese* is a little more performance art than pure dance, yet it succeeds at both. A busy set takes attention away from the dancing, as does the statements made during the piece. Despite how serious it feels, there are many clever and fun aspects to *Dicese*.