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C8

Dance

The Globe and Mail, Saturday, August 23, 1997

## High and low kicks from the body politic of choreography

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### DANCE REVIEW

FRINGE FESTIVAL  
OF INDEPENDENT DANCE

Reviewed by Deirdre Kelly

**I**N the final days of *Fida*, a new crop of choreographers has sprouted out of the festival's exotic soil, with works that are often spectacular balancing acts of different disciplines. Personal explorations of dance are producing pieces that run the gamut from the traditional to the wildly experimental. But while the seventh annual Toronto festival shows dance in an exciting state of flux, the constants include a distinct interest in the body.

Of what does the body speak? ...

... In *Dish-ette* and *Dreamgirl*, both by Rachel Thorne Germond of New York, the body speaks of itself as a political battleground. In these highly ironic works, questions of freedom, control, sexuality and identity are played out against a musical pastiche of such Motown hits as *Mr. Big Stuff*. Dancing with Tasha Taylor,

the choreographer executes jazz kicks through the slit in her tight sequined skirt to show off the strong technique that lines her maverick feminist critique. Sometimes indulging in arresting non sequiturs, her work has a madness about it that is probably just right for our times.

*Fida* continues through Sunday with mainstage performances at Buddies in Bad Times Theatre, 12 Alexander St. There are five shows daily starting at 2 p.m. For information, call 416 975-8555.