

DANCE REVIEW*Talk, Too,
As Topics
Trip By*

By JACK ANDERSON

Tere O'Connor's "Hi Everybody!" certainly wasn't boring. It couldn't have been. Mr. O'Connor changed his choreographic mind so often in it that no single subject ever grew dull. As presented on Thursday night at the Kitchen by Tere O'Connor Dance, the 45-minute piece touched on such matters as cancer, Alzheimer's disease, war, peace, retirement communities, gay marriage and homophobia, to name only a few of the topics that whizzed by to outbursts of recorded music by James Baker.

Mr. O'Connor gave the audience a peep into dancers' problems in scenes in which he portrayed an exasperated choreographer, presumably himself, squabbling with his cast (Rob Besserer, Rebecca Hilton, Marc Kenison, Heather Olson, Chrysa Parkinson and Greg Zucolo). But most of the time he focused upon the world outside the studio and commented on it both with choreography and with a text spoken by the dancers as they moved. Indeed, Mr. O'Connor's text often dominated the evening.

Many of the lines were witty. Yet the performers delivered them in such a deliberately exaggerated manner that these sallies sounded labored, rather than clever. The choreography occasionally helped dramatize the text: for instance, in one scene, women collapsed wearily while men talked about refugees; in another, dancers played quarrelsome diners and waiters in a restaurant. At other times the movements created moods, as when disordered passions were suggested by fierce sequences of Spanish dancing.

Although Mr. O'Connor gave himself much to talk about, he had little to say about anything. He hopped from subject to subject so often that his verbal and choreographic remarks had neither satirical force nor emotional depth. Mr. O'Connor may have been trying to depict life's absurdities. But he made life seem merely trivial instead.

The production will be repeated tonight at the Kitchen, 512 West 19th Street, Chelsea.