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WEEKEND Arts MOVIES PERFORMANCES



RYAN MCNAMARA

SAM KIM In describing her new work, “dumb dumb bunny,” now running at the Kitchen, the choreographer Sam Kim brought up the notion of agency and how people cope with obstacles. The piece, she said, is about the people “negotiating, and finding their way in a particular environment, with their particular problems.” The title, she added, conjures an image of a creature “that is pretty soft and mute and pretty helpless” — a far cry from the wonderfully resourceful independent choreographers who routinely transform the Kitchen with their outlandishly fertile imaginations.

Ms. Kim, for instance, has a 22-foot-high section of scaffolding as her major set piece, which she and the other performers will scale during the dance. She and her set designer, Mimi Lien, are also “blinging out” the walls, mounting

strips of bare bulbs that she described as “very functional but really flashy,” while the choreography itself offers another contrast: formal components set next to jittery, sloppy movements.

Ms. Kim, standing above with her colleagues, from left, Miriam Wolf, Liz Santoro and David Velasco, said she was intrigued with the idea of “setting up this element of bombast and showiness, and seeing this incredible vulnerability” within that context. Her description brings to mind another delicious juxtaposition, which she and her peers routinely deliver: smart, sophisticated ideas about dance, delivered in wonderfully seductive packages. (Tonight and tomorrow night at 8, 512 West 19th Street, Chelsea, 212-255-5793, Ext. 11, thekitchen.org; \$12)

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