

# The New York Times

DANCE REVIEW

TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2006

## After Millenniums, It Had to Happen: Achilles in High Heels

By JENNIFER DUNNING

There is a somebody in Richard Move who is struggling to get out. Is it the savvy, dance-loving entrepreneur who produced the Martha@Mother's salon? Is it the popular Martha Graham impersonator, in truth much more like the former Graham dancer Janet Eilber? Or is it the modern-dance choreographer who created "Lust" in 2001, a searing solo in "The Seven Deadly Sins" at the Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival?

The answer may come when Mr. Move (a.k.a. Richard Winberg) returns to the Pillow this summer. That inner Move never quite emerges in "The Show (Achilles Heels)," which opened on Thursday night at the Kitchen, a co-producer of the show with Mr. Move and the Baryshnikov Dance Foundation. A sloppily concocted soup with a few terrific ingredients, "The Show" updates the story of Achilles with stale, near-contemporary elements like voguing moves and references to American television quiz shows and news programs.

The two best things about "The Show" are Rasta Thomas, the former ballet whiz kid and Broadway dancer, and Deborah Harry, the rock singer and musician of Blondie fame. Mr. Thomas is immensely touching as a vain and arrogant Achilles, a

"The Show (Achilles Heels)" repeats tonight through Saturday at the Kitchen, 512 West 19th Street, Chelsea, (212) 255-5793 or [www.thekitchen.org](http://www.thekitchen.org).



Nan Melville for The New York Times

Rasta Thomas and Deborah Harry at the Kitchen in "The Show (Achilles Heels)," created by Richard Move.

role originally played by Mr. Baryshnikov, and Ms. Harry's Athena is a wise and glamorously earthy old girl who has seen and done everything.

Katherine Crockett, a Graham principal dancer, performs on a more character-immersed level as Helen of Troy. And six other performers take on the guises of Achilles' lover Patroclus and chorus, servants, warriors and homeboy posse.

One of Mr. Move's conceits is to have his performers speak in prerecorded speech, and the sound of Mr.

### The Show (Achilles Heels)

The Kitchen

Baryshnikov's voice coming out of Mr. Thomas's mouth is part of the fun. But one scene suggests what "The Show" might have been. The setting is a quiz show, "That's Greek to Me." Achilles is the only contestant. Ms. Harry, the host, subtly works up to a question whose answer will suggest whether he chooses a doomed glory or a safe but ignomini-

ous failure for his future. Mr. Thomas remains motionless and undecided, center stage, for a very long time, then strides angrily off.

Another strong bit in which an intense Achilles tries on glittering high heels probably comes closer to the balance Mr. Move was after. They suggest that Mr. Move's inner self may be an unashamedly serious theater and dance artist who just hasn't quite given up on safe, would-be-hip comedy.