

THE KITCHEN

CENTER FOR
VIDEO MUSIC
AND DANCE

French-Canadian-punk must be beautiful. That's the impression given by Montreal's Edward Lock and Dancers, who created a black padded ceiling at The Kitchen and performed *Lili Marlene in the Jungle* (October 30 through November 2). Beauty is as beauty does, and the distinctively pretty Lock and company presented non-assaultive dance-theater with the surface sensibilities of New Wave art.

For optimum beauty, everything about *Lili Marlene* would have to cohere as effectively as does its visual design—a finely conceived, well-lit distribution of black, red, green, grey, white, and the colors of skin and hair. There's interest in the dancers' androgynous approach and behavior (heightened, in part, by the association with Dietrich), in their swing between helplessness and recklessness on the scale of vulnerability, and in their superb concentration of physical powers. Movement leitmotifs logically click into place; bravura solos sparkle

with movement surprises. Color, mood, performance concentration, recurring themes, exciting solos—I could be describing a sprawling piece of music, and the only thing that might keep it from being great music is the absence of a motivating spirit, a reason for being. Remove the wonderful layers of design and performance artistry I've mentioned and *Lili Marlene* disappears. Maybe I fail to make all the right connections. Maybe there are no connections to be made, but the work does seem to want to point towards something besides itself and such an ambition is a commitment.

I can reconstruct the work almost totally in my mind, and that's a rare pleasure. Lock does have a flair for imagery that keeps *Lili Marlene* alive despite its lack of heart.

Board of Directors

Robert Ashley
Paula Cooper
Suzanne Delehanty
Phillip Glass
Eric Larrabee
Barbara London
Mary MacArthur
Meredith Monk
Barbara Pine
Carlota Schoolman
Robert Stearns
John Stewart
Caroline Thorne
Paul Walter

DANCE MAGAZINE January 1981

HALEAKALA, INC.

59 WOOSTER
NEW YORK,
NEW YORK

10012

(212) 925-3615