

DANCE IN REVIEW

**In Hitchcockian Mode,
With Anxiety and Secrets***Dance by Neil Greenberg
Performance Space 122*

Suspense mounted in "This Is What Happened," presented on Saturday night by Neil Greenberg. It's even tempting to say that the plot thickened, except there was no plot.

This plotless mystery was danced to recorded excerpts from scores Bernard Herrmann composed for suspense films by Alfred Hitchcock. A sense of ominousness pervaded Mr. Greenberg's choreography for himself and Justine Lynch and Paige Martin, two members of his company, Dance by Neil Greenberg. Whereas Hitchcock concocted ingenious plots, Mr. Greenberg created eerie atmospheres.

The dancers often waved their arms anxiously as if warning against doom. They also gesticulated downstage virtually eyeball to eyeball with spectators in the first row, thereby suggesting they sought to communicate terrible secrets.

Mr. Greenberg intensified his choreographic mysteries in other ways. Occasionally, for instance, movements were performed in unison. But because the dancers were spaced far apart facing different directions, their steps looked different.

Slide projections by John Master-son flashed texts across curtains at the back of the stage. Some simply commented on events, as when Mr. Greenberg seemed perplexed and words declared, "He queries his future." Other remarks were deliberately ambiguous. Thus an impassioned solo for Ms. Lynch was interrupted by the statement, "Don't believe her, she's lying." Were her movements really lying? And, if so, why?

Such moments helped make "This Is What Happened" a thriller and a puzzler. It will be repeated tomorrow through Sunday nights at Performance Space 122, 150 First Avenue at Ninth Street, East Village.

JACK ANDERSON