

Burnt Sugar/DANZ at BAC

Last evening, **Summer Stages Dance/Baryshnikov Arts Center Artist Residency** participants **Greg Tate** (music) with **Germaul Barnes** and **Gabri Christa** (dance) presented an invitation-only, informal showing of their improvisatory **Burnt Sugar/DANZ** project. In a music/movement jam called *La Celestina*, the trio continued earlier explorations of this question:

Why can't choreographers come together and create spontaneous new ensemble work the way musicians do?

Of course, they can. Of course, they did.

And given that most of the dance artists involved last night have sizzling dance skills and presence, that sugar was burning. Conductor Tate's ensemble--which included vocals by **Latasha Diggs** and **Somi**--hit some sweet spots at times, too. But the evening belonged to extraordinary, imaginative movers like Barnes and Christa and like **Daniel Gwartzman**, **Kyle Abraham**, **Ayo Jackson**, **Catherine Cabeen**, **Nejla Yatkin** and **Christian von Howard**, who know how to get a groove going or take full advantage of whatever's already happening on the floor.

As in any improvisation, sometimes you hit it, sometimes you don't. But, in *Burnt Sugar/DANZ*, the entirety is fun, stimulating and a welcome experience of some exceptional performers exercising their creativity on the spot. So, if you hear of other chances to witness this project, jump right in!

burnt sugar...danz

some sugar
some solid pliability
energetic calligraphy
hive gathers gestures
sparrows call spasm
family movements
determined undetermination
conducted spheres of action
baton for music baton for dance
mass of singularity
scampering steady chime
dignified hectic traffic

(c)2010, Eva Yaa Asantewaa