

Choreography that offers hope and comfort

Liz Roche Company and Crash Ensemble have created this vigorous exploration of the idea of community for the Dublin Dance Festival, which is again online this year. The piece comprises six short dances, filmed on the Abbey stage. Choreography is by Roche and original music is from composer David Coonan.

The opening film, *Travelling Back*, presents the company of six dancers, all wearing masks, the sight somewhat shocking still. The music here has a delicacy, the dance an air of agitation. *Film No 4, Catching and Falling*, most rigorously explores dance without touch as the dancers support each other falling, but maintain distance. This is followed by *Hand in Hand* with two dancers who are in a real-life bubble. Their hand-holding acquires an electric quality, enhanced

Démos – Films of Separation and Togetherness

dublindancefestival.ie
until May 29

by a new transgressive feel. The final piece, *Landscape(s)* is the most arresting. The dancer moves like a puppet on a string of hypnotic guitar music. Dance and music are straining to fully integrate; one would not properly function without the other.

Fresh and immediate, this work offers hope and comfort. Though much of the choreography gestures at our current no-touching predicament, when a dancer pokes his head out the door of the Abbey, you can almost smell the air of freedom.