

Veronica Dittman-Stanich's writing response to an informal viewing of *Within a*

Formal Circumstance: Veronica's review: *I love being invited to rehearsal. I love feeling like a privileged insider; I love the absence, or decrease, in the distance that a proscenium and lighting and make-up create between the dancers and me; and I love being in on something cool while it's still unfolding. Lucky me, going to Maree's rehearsal. Seeing the dancers set up, I became suspicious, skeptical. I've seen enough dance pieces wherein the women wear ball-gowns or prom dresses to know what's going to happen: they're going to disrupt the lady-like veneer by doing rough stuff. That again, like ordering C-26 off the Chinese menu. But then, no. It wasn't that. While they do end up scrambling across the floor and tussling with each other, it's not C-26. I can't tell you yet what it is, because it's still becoming itself. What can I tell you? There is authenticity that borders on theatrical nakedness. There are bold, funny performers. There's a bucket of candy and provocative spoken text and aggressive competition. There is tension building between "camps" of characters, and I'm not suspicious anymore. I'm in; I want to know what happens next.*