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Dance: 'At This Point in Time or Place'

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LEE Mass., Aug. 7—Wah-tergate-related follies have been derided, discussed and analyzed, but until now they had not been choreographed. Pearl Lang took a hard look at the whole awkward mess and created "At This Point in Time or Place," which her company presented for the first time at the Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival on Tuesday evening. The dance has a bitter, sarcastic bite at its best, though a few of its seven "events" could be trimmed profitably.

The work starts with an isolated man crouched on stage; almost immediately the rest of the company crosses behind him. Everyone wears a simple leotard and tights with portions in red, white and blue. Two couples detach themselves and are tormented by their inability to make anything more than a cursory slithering contact with one another. One man furiously batters his palms to the side of his head, and all depart troubled.

Suddenly a parade of dancers marches on jubilantly, wearing sashes with the names of states, and one is reminded of the demonstrations at political conventions. Everyone is maniacally happy. However, a duet for Daniel Maloney and Susan McLain forms sad interlude before the crowd rushes on in gaudy Uncle Sam hats with signs encouraging the electorate to vote. It becomes apparent that we are going to be drawn through both public and private anguish, although the two do not blend easily.

Switching to the comic-opera aspects of the familiar events, Miss Lang skewered the mentality that saw patriotism in burglary. She has a

darkened stage with flashlights, peering into file drawers and poking through an attaché case. One even dons a ludicrous red wig and when they bump into one another accidentally they salute. In a mad but highly effective stroke of exuberance, she has them dance a Spanish-style trio while covering themselves in patriotic bunting.

They all soon fall to encouraging one another to maintain silence, then accusing one another and finally concluding in an agitated turmoil of mouth-covering gestures. One laughed, but somehow it stuck in the throat.

Miss Lang joined the company for a performance of her justly famous "Shirah," which always impresses with its lyrical mystical delirium.

Chuck Davis and his company shared the program with several dances based on African folk models. Bowser, John Your

Charles Wynn racketeer through an exciting post- initiation dance under Davis's benign gaze, Marilyn Banks, Monifa porin and Sandra celebrated their womanhood.

"Isicathula," a S can boot dance, men and women to be one of the most successful gling bells er ers booted intricate f and mo' shaped. the chi by Ba' liams luck