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DANCE REVIEW

Forces of Order And Disorder Come Alive

By JACK ANDERSON

Ellis Wood's "Hurricane Flora" was admirably named, admirably danced. Storms of motion swept through this new two-part piece, which the choreographer's troupe, Ellis Wood Dance, offered on Friday night at Dance Theater Workshop. And flowers were caught up in the tempests.

A scene called "Air" opened the work, which Ms. Wood choreographed in collaboration with its cast of women. People twisted, turned and toppled over to solemn sounds of electric violin composed and played by Daniel Bernard Roumain. The rushing bodies could easily have been winds. Projected video images by Ed Rawlings showed ominous dark spots drifting across a sky and debris blowing through a city street.

"Earth," the second episode, began with women carrying large baskets of flowers. But harmonious floral ar-

rangements and choreographic groupings were soon shattered as dancers dashed back and forth and raced madly in circles. They threw flowers about and, in a final frenzy, pelted the audience with them. This hurricane seemed unstoppable.

Throughout the program, the admirably controlled dancers created

'Hurricane Flora'

Dance Theater Workshop

the illusion that forces beyond their control were haunting them. In "Stella," a solo, Ms. Wood made her arms and legs battle the air with manic agitation. The solo ended with one of the evening's rare moments of calm.

But "Timeless Red," a group piece, was a total maelstrom. A malevolently gesturing woman tried to dominate other women, making them either inert or perpetually dithering. Everyone appeared to be trapped in compulsive actions.

Although Ms. Wood has been trained in modern dance, theatergoers from the Middle Ages might say she was depicting people possessed by spirits or even demons. Then they'd summon an exorcist. Ms. Wood's dances are choreographically strong and emotionally scary.