



MANUFACTURING CONSENT One of four choreographers featured at the ICA, Edisa Weeks transformed a Noam Chomsky theory into a dance piece.

Developing dances at the ICA

By **MARCIA B. SIEGEL** | August 2, 2011

Summer Stages Dance wrapped its 14th season Saturday afternoon at the Institute of Contemporary Art with a presentation by four choreographers who've been working with the students at Concord Academy through July. Directors Amy Spencer and Richard Colton have consistently encouraged the development of creative talent, and this year Summer Stages commissioned a new work from New York choreographer Edisa Weeks. In addition, three choreographic fellows — Kelley Donovan, Adele Myers, and Tennille Lambert — were mentored by Colton, Daniel McCusker, and David Parker...

Edisa Weeks attempted a bigger statement in *Manufacturing Consent*. Using a theory by Noam Chomsky that explains propaganda as a way of keeping 80 percent of the public from questioning the government, the cast of 34 began with marching formations and phrases of stamping that implied either anger or conformity. They were dressed in black-and-white outfits and carried folded or rolled-up newspapers. They donned overcoats and stood in a compact crowd, reading out loud from the newspapers. Several of them broke out of the group to run in big circles with their hands in their pockets, falling deliberately, then getting up and running again. Suddenly one of the readers screamed, setting off a mass tantrum. As they rolled on the floor and ripped up their newspapers, they acted out the silent screams we've all been exchanging during the past weeks over the gridlock in Washington.

In a final section, 12 of the dancers brought chairs into the littered space. They conducted members of the audience to the chairs, then performed deadpan seductions that involved the removal and brandishing of underpants, and the serving of apple slices. After a revel in the accumulated debris, the whole cast advanced on the audience to meditative music, making earnest but cryptic finger gestures.

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