

The New York Times

Late Edition

New York: Today, showers, high 6
Tonight, patchy fog and cool, low 5
Tomorrow, partly sunny, chance of
shower, high 70. Yesterday, high 5
low 55. Weather map is on Page D

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\$1 beyond the greater New York metropolitan area.

75 CENTS

REVIEWS AND NEWS

THEATER REVIEW

One Slam-Bang Show (Literally)

By LAWRENCE VAN GELDER

Industrial-strength entertainment whizzes, whirs, whacks, flies, floats, skates and hops around the stage of the New Victory Theater in the artfully chaotic blend of circus, dance, mime, music and sheer athleticism that goes by the title "Antigravity's Crash Test Dummies."

Futuristic in costume, punk in garishly dyed hair, impelled by a mostly techno score and a smorgasbord of sound effects that raid the ear with whistles, sirens, thuds, the sizzle of electric short circuits, the revving of engines and the hiss of steam, "Antigravity's Crash Test Dummies" is literally a slam-bang show, especially for athletically inclined youngsters.

Directed and choreographed by Christopher Harrison and lasting a little more than an hour, this wordless entertainment blends subtle satire with high-octane performance in a colorful factorylike setting of steel

ANTIGRAVITY'S CRASH TEST DUMMIES

Directed and choreographed by Christopher Harrison. With original music and accompaniment by Sxip Shirey and Paul Weir. Original concept: Duncan Pettigrew and Mr. Harrison. Sets by Jonah Logan; costumes by Shelly Bomb; lighting by Herrick Goldman; sound by Mr. Weir; production manager, Joshua Sherer; technical director and master rigger, Scott Sloan; stage managers, Jenifer A. Shenker and Keith England; hair and makeup by Kiva Kahl; general manager, Alexander Schlempp; company manager, Ric Swezey. Musical direction, Mr. Shirey; associate director, Amy Gordon. Presented by the New 42nd Street. At the New Victory Theater, 209 West 42nd Street, Manhattan.

towers, chains, pulleys, flashing lights, red warnings of danger and diagonal yellow-and-black-striped signals of caution.

The cast of about a dozen and a half trim men and women, said to include athletes of Olympic and world championship caliber, spends

most of its time and exuberant energy displaying the athletic (and often comedic) possibilities of testing objects plucked from a sizable crate labeled "New Product."

Among the contents are a fanciful toaster, bolts of white fabric, deodorant, a large bottle of irresistible perfume, boots with rubbery rockers for soles and what appear to be bionic legs but are the latest thing in pogo sticks.

In a succession of sketches that involve even the frame of the crate, which becomes the platform for a graceful aerial act, the daredevil Dummies (and a few real dummies) are soon off and flying, tumbling, flipping, dancing, caroming, swinging and sometimes dancing and bouncing simultaneously on a stage on which gigantic sledge and demolition hammers, spark-emitting drills and a huge switch add to the perils of gymnastic feats and spine-bending contortions.

Bungee cords and big balloons ratchet up the fun.



Photographs by Richard Termine for The New York Times

"Antigravity's Crash Test Dummies" whirl around the New Victory Theater.