

the village

## VOICE

**DANCE**

FOOTNOTES

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

How has ballet choreographer Christopher Caines found time for his many passions — acting, directing, composing, designing, drumming? Watching the Christopher Caines Dance Company (Cunningham Studio, June) — celebrating its fifth anniversary with Graham dancer Heidi Stoeckley, Cincinnati Ballet's Luciano Lazzarotto, and some choice musicians and singers — one asks instead how he manages to weave together so many theatrical elements with such exceptional quality. *Italian Suite's* Sabra Perry became a dreamy curlicue with a core of steel, qualities used to comedic effect as skittering swains dutifully rotated her or employed her extended leg as a bar for circus tricks. Her performances here and in the new *Songs of the Sea* were models of expressiveness. Heather McCoy brought a spooky yet engaging presence to the "En sourdine" section of *Gardens of the Night*, Caines's new moon-dappled trio set to Fauré. One quibble: *Snow*, an attractive ice-skaters' quartet set to Janáček, needs a far less intimate space where viewers won't hear creaking, squealing ballet slippers.

— Eva Yaa Asantewaa