

■ Dance

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The dancers — Ms. Sgorbati, Agnes Klausz and Hope Clark — moved slowly out from behind the sculpture, exposing first their limbs, then their faces and finally their entire bodies, as if they were the human form of the sculpture's uprights come to life. Suddenly they burst into whirling, flailing, thrusting, leaping, falling frenzy. Even-

tually, they again slowed down into quieter movement.

The theme of the dance, Ms. Sgorbati would explain later, was of three women, each trying to cope with something she has to hide.

At one point, the musicians — Bryn Karlberg, Jason Wulkowicz and composer Randall Neale — broke into moaning, whining and slapping rocks together, as if the musicians themselves were natural instruments resonating with the

wind and salt spray.

Throughout the 20-minute performance, the ocean crashed behind the performers, seemingly threatening to overwhelm everything with its noise and waves.

Two teenage bicyclists moving down the shoreline stopped for a minute to watch what was undoubtedly for them a strange sight.

As enigmatically as it began, the Site Dance ended with Ms. Sgorbati turning from her two partners and

walking slowly into the ocean, up to mid-thigh where she stopped.

After applause from the spectators, a woman was overheard telling a friend, "I didn't understand it, but I loved it."

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Ms. Sgorbati herself struggled to explain what it was she hoped people would take away from the event. "In some ways, these dances are ways to take people out of their normal experiences; to get them to

think about something else," she said. "You just happened to be here and it happened. If you weren't here, well..."

Although there was some rehearsal in Vermont, there was none on location. Unlike choreographing for the stage, Ms. Sgorbati said, there's much less control in a Site Dance.

Since 1979, she has invited commissions for her dances, priced at \$200, plus travel and \$100 per artist

involved. The Horseneck performance was sponsored largely by Bennington College.

Horseneck was chosen mostly because of New Bedford resident Rudnicki's sculpture. Rudnicki's works have graced the Site Dances before. His is the vicarious thrill at being part of the performance and yet watching from a distance. "I'm basically a wallflower," he said, smiling. "I set the stuff up and stand back."