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The Year in Culture

## Dance Moments of the Year

- By [Rebecca Milzoff](#)
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*Bud Suite.*

### “The Nightingale and the Rose”

Amid the hype about his own company, Christopher Wheeldon’s work for City Ballet got a bit lost. But this intimate, brief piece seemed even more romantic and lyrical than all the upside-down lifts at City Center.

### Stephen Petronio Company

The work Petronio presented at the Joyce was modern, technically smart, and affecting. The return of the delightful *Bud Suite* made Petronio’s point best, as Rufus Wainwright’s “Oh, What a World” became not merely kitsch but had an audience marveling at a fluid man-on-man partnership.

### “Slow Dancing”

In David Michalek’s high-def video projected on the State Theater, the shrug of a shoulder or the twitch of a bicep slowed to near-stillness became utterly painstaking. It showed that making movement is excruciatingly precise yet natural as breathing.

### “Death in Venice”


The Hamburg Ballet’s master of graceful reinvention, John Neumeier, turned unlikely material into a “dance of death” that captured the beauty and passion underlying Mann’s tragic novella.

### “From Here On Out”

Benjamin Millepied’s bright, inventive, geometric choreography, turning from delicate to confrontational, was perfectly mated with Nico Muhly’s alternately sparkling and aggressive score.

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