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<http://www.thirteen.org/sundayarts/blog/theater/alchemy-and-ghosts>



Alchemy and Ghosts by **Susan Yung**

Watching a dance can sometimes leave me wondering why the choreographer created it. Often it's during a "pure dance" work that doesn't offer anything new, even if the technique is solid and the dancers are skilled (as is nearly always the case in New York City). Sometimes, form is enough, sometimes not. But ... *Alchemy*, by Doug Varone – focuses on an important subject that provides much context to work with.

Doug Varone's new work at the Joyce, *Alchemy*, deals with two Daniels. To *Daniel Variations* by composer Steve Reich, it touches on the saga of Daniel Pearl, and also references text from the Book of Daniel in Reich's composition. It ghosts Pearl's story loosely; themes of oppression, suffering, and sacrifice mesh particularly well with Varone's visceral, emotive choreography as performed by his outstanding company.