

The TOC Blog

IN>TIME: Review

Posted in [Dance](#) by [Zachary Whittenburg](#) on March 29th, 2010 at 5:01 pm
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Saturday evening at the Chicago Cultural Center, sister wife assassins eerily roamed the building's stately staircases while lab coat-clad Stepford Wives approached audience members with the survey question, "When choosing a color for your living room, do you prefer a *warrm* color, or a *cool* color?" Answers were marked on clipboards before they'd about-face to lock eyes with another festival-goer through horn-rimmed glasses. They were performance artists in [Angela Ellsworth's](#) *Another Women's Movement* and [Jessica Hannah's](#) *The Living Room*, respectively; the latter's mothership was installed in an anteroom of the Center's cavernous GAR Hall. One woman placidly knit while another sang "The Way You Look Tonight" in a set straight out of *Revolutionary Road*. Maybe Ellsworth's piece had put me on edge, but the scene was as taut as piano wire, its energy whispering "*RUN FOR YOUR LIFE!*" through the performers' distant stares and frozen grins.

Inside the Hall, [Every house has a door](#) performed a men's dance trio to an "inaudible layer of interference," we were told, between Benny Goodman's clarinet and Béla Bartók's *Contrasts for violin, clarinet and piano*. Hobbling around on platform sandals made of birch stumps, [Justin Cabrillos](#) gasped through "Camptown Ladies" on an incredible journey toward a bucket of KFC with a radio in it, a toilet plunger hoisted high above his head. Each event was packed beyond capacity, audience members squeezing together cross-legged on the floor and peeking from the best vantage points they could find. If you missed [my memo](#), this was the first IN>TIME since its 2008 debut; the free biennial won't return until 2012.