

## The Narrowing

### Summary

The Narrowing explores the nature of performance itself from the performer's perspective. Utilizing gesture mashing, deconstruction, shifting perspectives and obstructing views, we examine the meaning of dance presentation and how it establishes or breaks down specific relationships. The performers adopt and slide between various stances such as passive audience member, virtuosic dancer, objectified figurine, and sarcastic critic. These portrayals invite a revisioning of performer as subject and object.

Photo Credit: David Papa



### Information

The Narrowing (2010) welcomes you to re-examine your expectations as an audience member seeing a duet by two male performers for a physically-integrated dance company. The piece was created to take a look at the world of performance and the roles that we take on by participating in it. Both dancers generated their own material and adapted material from the other, as the attempt was to create a truly integrated and balanced piece. Overtime, themes arose about the specific role of physical disability in a performance context. We wonder: are those themes irrevocably relevant to the final work? Are our roles as performers always distinct? And finally, can we be deconstructionist and still palatable?

A version of The Narrowing was performed on Fox TV's *So You Think You Can Dance*.

Duration: 12 minutes

### Credits

**Choreography:** Sebastian Grubb in Collaboration with Rodeny Bell

**Dancers:** Joel Brown and Sebastain Grubb

**Original Score:** Michael Wall

**Lighting Design:** Heather Basarab

## The Dancers

**Sebastian Grubb**, Dancer & Choreographer, is a movement artist and fitness trainer based in San Francisco. He has toured nationally and internationally with AXIS Dance Company since 2009, and with Scott Wells & Dancers since 2008. His choreographic work has been shown extensively in California and also in Washington State, Wyoming, Minnesota, Washington DC, Florida, Russia, and on FOX TV's *So You Think You Can Dance*. [www.sebastiangrubb.com](http://www.sebastiangrubb.com)

**Joel Brown**, Dancer, grew up dancing and doing gymnastics. At 9, Joel was paralyzed in a car accident. He returned to dance at the encouragement of his older brother Graham who created a duet *The Better Half* commissioned by Dance Exchange and performed in Salt Lake City, UT; Takoma Park, Silver Spring, College Park, MD; and Washington, DC. Joel studied vocal performance/jazz guitar at the U. of Utah. In 2011, he released his first album *In Retrospect* under Spy Hop Records Label. Joel began dancing with AXIS in April 2012. Most recently, Joel was nominated for an Isadora Duncan Dance Award for Outstanding Individual Achievement in Performance for his 2013 Season with AXIS Dance Company.

## The Choreographer

**Sebastian Grubb**, Dancer & Choreographer, is a movement artist and fitness trainer based in San Francisco. He has toured nationally and internationally with AXIS Dance Company since 2009, and with Scott Wells & Dancers since 2008. His choreographic work has been shown extensively in California and also in Washington State, Wyoming, Minnesota, Washington DC, Florida, Russia, and on FOX TV's *So You Think You Can Dance*. [www.sebastiangrubb.com](http://www.sebastiangrubb.com)

## AXIS Dance Company Contact Details

[www.axisdance.org](http://www.axisdance.org)

### Judith Smith - Artistic Director

E: [judy@axisdance.org](mailto:judy@axisdance.org)

P: 510 625 0110

### Robin Anderson – Community Engagement Manager

E: [robin@axisdance.org](mailto:robin@axisdance.org)

P: 510 625 0110