

THE NEW YORK TIMES, THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 1987

## Cabaret: Bob Telson's Little Village

**T**HE WARRIOR ANT," the epic work-in-progress by the writer-director Lee Breuer and the composer Bob Telson, took another step — a dance step — on Tuesday night at Sounds of Brazil, where Mr. Telson's band, Little Village, unveiled the latest versions of the music.

Mr. Breuer's lyrics get down-to-earth about the ant's life cycle, with lines like "Virgin Queen — this be your night," and Mr. Telson's songs go globe-hopping to Africa, the Caribbean and Brazil for their rhythms.

The songs are a far cry from most theater music because they put the groove before the text, and the groove is always infectious and celebratory. With horns, percussion, guitars and singers, and Mr. Telson on keyboards, Little Village leaps national and continental boundaries with ease. The group is equally at home in a Zairean rumba, a Brazilian carnival march, a Cuban cha-cha or South African kwela music.

It's an impressive feat for an American band to put across so many different styles, changing guitar tone and horn inflections along with rhythms and cross-rhythms. But Little Village is so good that it raises expectations even higher. At the moment, Mr. Telson's models for each song are fairly obvious; with luck, the remaining music for "The Warrior Ant" will build from imitations of local styles to a global synthesis.

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