

Review/**Dance**

Immigrants' Impressions Re-enacted

By JACK ANDERSON

The Synergic Theater, a multimedia group, was at its best at the Pace Downtown Theater on Thursday night when dance, speech, stage settings and lighting effects were so blended that one art became inseparable from another.

The media were skillfully mixed in "I, Migrant," a new work created and directed by David Manning and Suzanne White Manning, the company's directors. Most of the piece consisted of images on a large screen. Slide projections depicted immigrants at Ellis Island. Shadowy outlines of steamships and roaring trains evoked journeys to and across America.

The looming shadows of Malin Eklund, Laura Fernandez, Pia Sidetun and Tom Fountain at various times represented immigration officials, timid newcomers to America and children with their parents. A taped collage of popular and classical music was an atmospheric accompaniment.

Other scenes concerning young people and their elders occurred in front of the screen. But these flesh-and-blood episodes were prosaic, whereas watching the shadows was like turning the pages of an old scrapbook kept by someone's immigrant grandparents.

"Private Lives," choreographed by Mrs. Manning to piano music by Gershwin, was also scenically ingenious. Christopher Thomas, the designer, devised a slide projection showing a sparsely furnished room with a window overlooking a forest. Lighting changes symbolized changing times of day and the constantly shifting emotions of the cast: Miss Sidetun, Miss Eklund, Larry Lavender and Godfrey Say.

"Private Lives" consisted entirely of hints and suggestions. One knew these people were intensely involved with one another, but one could never be sure just why they behaved as they did. Although there were lapses into mere vagueness, other moments were fascinatingly ambiguous.