

Home boy

A house in Parel moves choreographer Hrishikesh Pawar, reports **Suhani Singh**.

In January, contemporary dancer and choreographer Hrishikesh Pawar visited his actor-friend Nakul Vaid's apartment in Parel, in an 80-year-old building called Zaveri which is slated to be demolished this June and redeveloped into a high-rise. The three-storey Zaveri once hosted the office of director Homi Wadia and actor Om Prakash. In the building's stone façade and wooden floors, and the apartment's cracked high ceilings and the peeling paint, Pawar found inspiration for his latest production, *The Four Walls of Parel*. "I like such houses," he said. "There's cosiness to it. It's not spick and span."

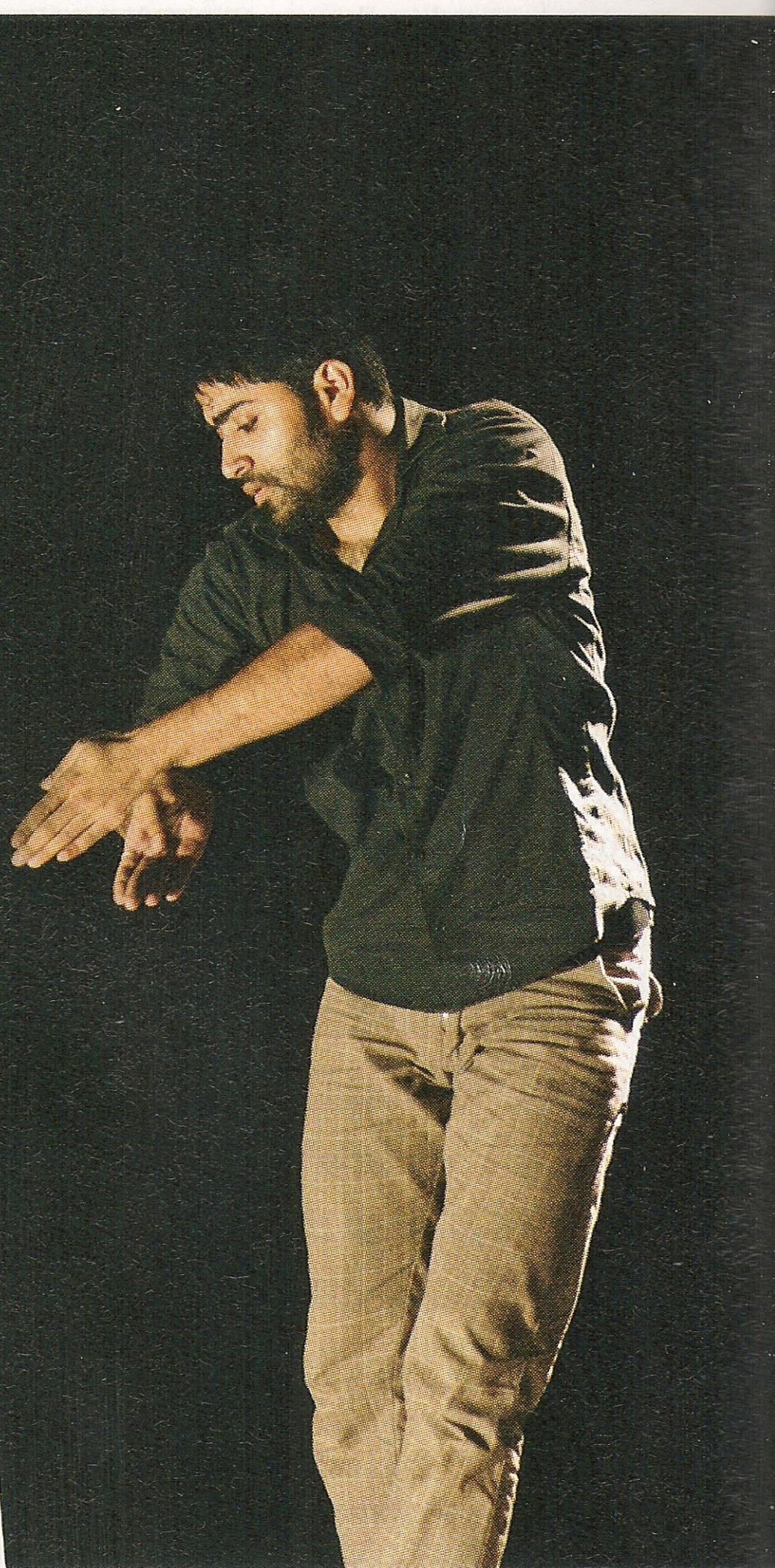
The production, which will premiere this fortnight at the Alliance Française Auditorium, will have four female dancers share tales of their own houses, set to music by Italian-Argentinian



composer Adios Nonino. Visuals from a documentary on the house made by Pawar's friend and filmmaker Sandeep Chatterjee, will be projected on the backdrop. "We are influenced by the house we live in. I'm interested in how we throw our personality into the house," said

"space effects movement", he said. For audiences in Mumbai, the production will present the lesser-seen style of dance theatre, which blends elements of theatre and modern dance.

Tanztheater, as it's known in its birthplace, Germany, holds that dance doesn't have to be only about choreography, but that it should be



Cross examination Hrishikesh Pawar (top) and his troupe's dancers look at an apartment in Parel for inspiration

Pawar, who is artistic director of the Centre of Contemporary Dance, in Pune. The piece will also explore how

an expression of emotion. The work of German choreographers like Pina Bausch, a pioneer in dance theatre, has deeply influenced Pawar's movement vocabulary. In Bausch's work "dancers don't always move beautifully," said the 27-year-old choreographer. "They are very human. I like the quirkiness, the reality. That made a lot of sense to me."

Pawar started his dance journey with kathak, training with Manisha Abhay and later with Rohini Bhate, who, Pawar said, helped him figure out what he really wanted to do with dance.