

Dance: 'Lost,' With Synergic Theater

By JENNIFER DUNNING

One of the most bizarre dance-theater evenings of the season occurred Thursday, when the Synergic Theater of Durham, N.C., presented "Lost" at Pace University's Schimmel Center. Projections, shadowplay, movement, music and speech combined in a remarkably smooth way to combine the story of Virginia Dare, the first English child born in America, with the doings of a 1930's flapper and a lost woman of the 1980's.

David and Suzanne White Manning, the creators of "Lost," see Dare as a colonial Iphigenia, left behind with her people to disappear forever into the wilds of Roanoke Island in the late 16th century after her grandfather, returning from England, sets sail

again without them. But the allusion is not carried through the three-act work. The flapper croons a song with the refrain "I double dare you." Models come alive behind the shadow screen in a 1938 "Virginia Dare Issue" of Vogue. And the disaffiliated woman of our own time swathes herself in lengths of film strip and chants a chill, arbitrary song.

But no deeper connection is made between the women, and a chance is lost for what might have been provocative social commentary. The script is often heavy-handed in its humor, though telling in its serious moments.

Still, a good deal of deft artistry has clearly gone into this ambitious production. Set to a soundscore drawn for the most part from music by con-

temporary North Carolina composers, "Lost" has moments of eerie visual magic in its opening section and at the close. Live shadow figures intermingle with projections, evoking wilderness that both beckons and frightens the young Virginia. Her spunky reflections and the shadow figures that zoom and prance across the screen create a timeless dream world. And "Lost" closes with mysterious objects and talismans floating through space across the screen.

The soloists were Carol Fike, unruly and forthright as Virginia, Anne Deloria as the impudent flapper, and Miss Manning, something of a puzzle as the modern woman.

"Lost" will be performed through Saturday.