

Review: *BJM Danse*

After being snowed out in February, BJM is back from Montreal.

By Michael Lake

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• SVETLA ATANASOVA

For one night only, special guests Ballet Jazz de Montréal graced the stage of the Rebecca Cohn to present three original works. *Kosmos*, the first and strongest of the three, is a frenetic piece choreographed by Andonis Foniadakis, with a cacophony of people onstage doing impossibly beautiful things with their bodies. The piece was breathtaking to watch, evoking a post-apocalyptic urban vibe somewhere between *Mad Max* and *Batman*, but in the most elegant way.

The second piece, *Closer*, choreographed by Benjamin Millepied, is a duet set to Philip Glass' stunning composition *Mad Rush*, and portrays the alternating tenderness and turmoil in a pair of lovers. It is a sweet journey, if not a little saccharine, but arguably without any distinct enough elements to rise it above a predictably pleasant interlude. (I would also implore the costume

designer to dress these two dancers is something that doesn't look like their comfy laundry-day leftovers).

The final piece, *O Balcao De Amor* is a fun, Cuban-inspired romp that is comedic, strange, and a little bit irreverent. It was delightfully silly, suffering only from a behind-the-scenes film preceding the piece that showed the dancers in rehearsal and choreographer Itzik Galili explaining his inspirations. It was a bit like seeing the preview for a movie before its own screening. Next time, just give us a link.

BJM Danse

Presented by Live Art Dance

April 19th, 2017

Rebecca Cohn Auditorium

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