

DANCE REVIEW

DANCE REVIEW; An Embrace in Midair And Other Encounters



By Jack Anderson

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Dance and the circus were happily united when the Lisa Giobbi Movement Theater performed on Saturday night as part of the Altogether Different series at the Joyce Theater. The offerings, most of them created by Ms. Giobbi, made the cast both dance across the floor and hang above the stage from various kinds of trapezes, cords, wires and rigging.

Two new pieces showed off Ms. Giobbi's ingenuity. "Temptation," a New York premiere to a taped score by Hayley Moss and a group called Nomad, began with Ms. Giobbi's moving languidly on the floor. She was tempted in an unusual fashion by Timothy Harling, who descended head downward on a wire and pulled her up into his arms. After entwining in midair, he returned her to the floor looking astonished. Anyone would be astonished after an encounter like that.

In "Babylon," a world premiere to music by Ms. Moss, Ms. Giobbi remained high above the stage, wiggling seductively in a scarlet costume by David Robinson that made one recall that in ancient

times Babylon was celebrated for its opulence and vice.

Other works made artful use of earth and air. Ms. Giobbi remained rooted to the floor in "Hormonal Tempest." But the lighting by Donalee Katz and Mitch Levine caused her arms to cast enormous, grotesque shadows on the backdrop. Ms. Giobbi floated in midair throughout "Falling Angel," in which she resembled an angel at times and a sylph from a 19th-century Romantic ballet at other times.

"Fear of Flying," for Jennifer Binford, Rebecca Jung, John-Mario Sevilla and Terry Pexton, contrasted rolling movements on the floor with aerial swayings. In "Give Me a Sign," Ms. Giobbi and Mr. Harling seemed involved in a gauche courtship.

Mr. Harling was dragged about by bands of material attached to his body in "Sabastian," a solo he choreographed. He and Ms. Giobbi dangled precariously from a trapeze in "Fall From Grace," which she choreographed with Sasha Pavlata. Despite the title, no one fell. In their collaboratively devised "Polymorphously Perverse," Ms. Giobbi resembled an inert rag doll as Mr. Harling partnered her. Then he appeared to rape her. This duet certainly involved more than clever stunts.

The Altogether Different series features five companies at the Joyce Theater, 175 Eighth Avenue, at 19th Street, Chelsea. Ms. Giobbi's group performs again on Thursday and Sunday nights.

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