



Reviews

Neil Alexander

MTL as easy as 123

The Move Through Life Dance Company's second production, named 123, showed the company's continuing growth and diversification. Though only in its second year this production showed great maturity and variation for such a young company. The production consisted of four separate Acts working with the theme of solos, duos and trios.

The first Act, Transitions, told the story of a young immigrant leaving her homeland and family for a brighter opportunity in Australia. The story, created as solos, duos and trios, relied heavily on styles and feels from Greek dancing mixed with jazz. The opening scene was a farewell between the principal and her parents in Greece, which dealt with the emotions of her and her parents as she was leaving

home. The long ocean trip to Australia was represented by a lyrical duet during which she dreamt of finding love in Australia. Transition finished with a lively Rock'n'Roll style number showing her with friends at a party when she arrived in Australia.

In contrast the second Act, Mad World, was a distinctly modern and edgy number set to high energy dance music, in which the dancers executed dynamic moves at a frenetic pace. Again this performance worked with solos, duos and trios with a soundtrack of varied tempos to mirror the chaotic pace of contemporary life.

Colours of Heart Strings, the third Act was a fluid contemporary piece, with plenty of stunning floor work, movements and flowing lines. This number showed the delightful lines of the dancers as they flowed around one another. The final dance of this set

was a dynamic, vibrant trio filled with high energy lifts and jumps that clearly demonstrated the high skill level of the dancers. Colours also featured some thought provoking and innovative film components.

The final Act, Viper, had a completely different feel to it than the preceding performances. The piece used a whisky drinking, Argentinian narrator who sat to the side of the stage telling the story of the Viper within all of us - the voice that sits on your shoulder filling your ear with negative self talk. The performance told the story of two women competing in dance for the attention of the same male partner (Daniella). One woman was our heroine, the fragile and insecure Miguela, the other represented the Viper. Performed in an Argentine Tango style, the performance lent itself to a number of passionate duos and solos, and a trio that saw the women competing for dominance. The Argentinian narrator was used well with brief comments throughout the number, giving you reflection on the emotions that inspired the dancing.

In all, this second production for the Move Through Life Dance Company shows that the company is anything but one-dimensional. The use of different choreographers with very different and dynamic styles ensures that the company will continue to provide performances that will supply something to appeal to every dance lover.