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San Francisco International Arts Festival – May 2012

By Aimee Tsao on May 28, 2012 in Reviews · 0 Comments

Compagnie 7273

Listen & Watch

20 May 2012

Not since I saw the Whirling Dervishes of Damascus have I experienced such an utterly mesmerising and transcendent performance in the modern vein as when I saw Compagnie 7273. *Listen & Watch* is a revisiting of this company's *Climax* (2006), a forty minute solo performed in silence. In the new version, live music improvised by Sir Richard Bishop on acoustic guitar was added and the area for movement was mostly restricted to a spot approximately one meter square to the musician's left. But the dancing is not improvised; every move is choreographed. Nicolas Cantillon executes the endless combinations of steps seamlessly like a snake slithering along the sand, or a bird soaring among the clouds. He never plays to the audience, but he focuses inward as would a Sufi. Absolutely transformative.

Compagnie 7273 will perform on May 25-26 at the Temescal Arts Center in Oakland, CA, May 28 and 30 at Conduit Dance, Portland, OR and June 1-3 at the Seattle International Dance Festival, Seattle, WA.

About author

Aimee Tsao

Work for DanceTabs

Aimée Ts'ao, a San Francisco dance writer, has appeared in Dance Magazine, was dance critic for the Bay Area Reporter and was the senior ballet editor for the Dance Insider Online. She lets her previous incarnation as a professional dancer (ballet and modern) imbue her perspective and hopes you like the resulting flavour.

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San Francisco International Arts Festival

Performances by Liquid Theater, Raices Profundas, Yaelisa & Caminos Flamencos, Mansaku-no Kai, AXIS Dance Company, Marc Brew Company, inkBoat and Ko Murobushi, Susanna Leinonen Company, Cid Pearlman Dance Project, Post:Ballet, Dance Elixir, Compagnie 7273
San Francisco, Marines' Memorial Theatre
2-20 May 2012
www.sfiarf.org

Every May for the past nine years the SFIARF presented an amazing array of live music, theater and dance from all over the world. Most of these performers would never be seen here in San Francisco if it weren't for festival director Andrew Wood's fanatic desire to bring as many diverse groups as the limited budget will allow.

This season I caught the performances of two theatre and ten dance companies out of 16 performing groups. Hopefully I will be able to summarise those of exceptional merit with enough precision that you might be inspired to see them should they pass through wherever you are.

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