





-  Customer Care
-  Place an Ad
-  Buy Photos
-  E-mail Updates

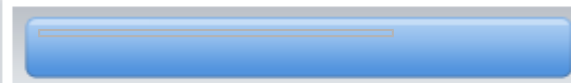
All timesunion.com blogs | City Brights | Capitol Confidential | Crime Confidential | On the Edge | Table Hopping | The Advocate | Read & React



You Review

Agree or disagree with our entertainment critics? Let us know

Entertainment section



Posts | Comments Log in

Nacre @ The Egg, Albany, 2/28/09

March 2, 2009 at 11:33 am by [Terry Brown](#)

Nacre debuts with program that spans 100 years dance history

By Tresca Weinstein
Special to the Times Union

ALBANY — Every history lesson should be like Saturday's delightful debut performance of Nacre, the Capitol Region's new historical dance company. Founding director Beth Hartle Fecteau has created a beautifully balanced program that travels through 100 years of dance, with expert tour guides to escort us on the journey.

The company is made up of local dance students, most still in high school, and professional performers, but the casting and the selection of repertory skillfully sidesteps any uncomfortable disparity between levels of talent or experience. Nacre showed impressive versatility in works ranging from Isadora Duncan's 1910 "Bacchanal" from "Iphigenie en Aulis" to a brand-new piece choreographed on the company by visiting artist Vanessa Paige Swanson.

In keeping with Fecteau's mission to educate the public — and her dancers — about the legacy of 20th-century modern dance, each piece was introduced by someone with a direct connection to it, adding context and a deeper understanding to the audience's direct experience of the work. Charles Humphrey Woodford and Mino Nicolas traced the lines connecting Woodford's mother, the choreographer Doris Humphrey, to Martha Graham, Ruth St. Denis, Charles Weidman and Ted Shawn (whose work was also represented). From Judith Fiore, who studied with Donald McKayle, we learned about the New Dance Group, a pioneering mid-century choreographers' collective of which McKayle was a member.

Watching the dances themselves after these introductions was akin to seeing a painting in a museum after reading about it in an

Recent Comments

- [Guy Clark @ The Egg, 11/1/09 \(3\)](#)
 - [stacy](#): long live guy clark. i wish somebody had a picture to share. i didn't take any pictures sunday. just...
 - [Fred](#): It was a superb show, indeed. I'll never forget Clark's stories between the songs, either! (That...
 - [Don](#): Hi Greg, Do you have a complete setlist for the 11/01 show? I would like to make a copy for Diane, Sylvia and...

art history book. In Humphrey's "Air for the G String," (with the Willow String Quartet playing Johann Sebastian Bach's composition) the five dancers, in gauzy pastel dresses and flowing drapery, moved with regal slowness, like Greek statuary come to life. As a court dancer set on enchanting the Shah of Iran, Debra Rutledge swirled and twirled through Shawn's 1916 solo "Ballerina Real."

Duncan's "Bacchanal," introduced by Jeanne Bresciani, a protégée of Duncan's adopted daughter Maria Theresa, was a charming embodiment of the freedom and vibrancy that Bresciani described as Duncan's legacy. Costumed as colorful fairies, the 10 dancers pranced and sprang like bouncing lambs to the music of Christoph Willibald Gluck.

The company also showed four etudes from the collection of the American Dance Legacy Institute, each combining excerpts from the work of a single choreographer. "Rooms Etude," from Anna Sokolow's 1955 "Rooms," is a spare, elegant piece in which each of the seven dancers is isolated in her own space, defined by a folding chair which she moves on and around. Work from McKayle (with live drumming and song by Garland Nelson), the jazz-dance choreographer Danny Buraczeski and David Parsons highlighted (respectively) forcefulness, playfulness and whimsicality.

With the lush, lyrical "Still/Flowing," Swanson picked up many of the threads that had come before and twisted them into her own gorgeously composed design, bringing the lineage of modern dance into the year 2009.

Tresca Weinstein is a freelance writer from Canaan and a frequent contributor to the Times Union.

Dance review

NACRE

Where: The Egg, Empire State Plaza, Albany

When: 2 p.m. Saturday, repeated at 8 p.m.

Length: One hour and 40 minutes, one intermission

Program: "Air for the G String," "Ballerina Real," "Rooms Etude,"

"Rainbow Etude," "Buraczeski Etude," "Still/Flowing," "Parsons Etude"

The crowd: Some 200 relatives and friends of the dancers as well as local dance fans



Posted in [All entries](#) | [Add a comment](#)

[RSS feed for comments on this post.](#)

[Post a Comment](#)

- [HERB ALPERT & LANI HALL, TROY MUSIC HALL, 11/01/09 \(1\)](#)
 - [Pat](#): I thoroughly enjoyed the concert and the musicians were incredible. I was somewhat disappointed that Herb et al...
- [RICKIE LEE JONES @ THE MAHAIWE, 10/30/09 \(1\)](#)
 - [Tom Bernard](#): She stinks on ice.
- [DRIVING MISS DAISY @ CURTAIN CALL THEATRE, 10/29/09 \(1\)](#)
 - [Linda Shults](#): I absolutely agree with the review and how marvelous the show ws. I was there on opening night and it...
- [Keb Mo @ the Egg 10/25/09 \(1\)](#)
 - [Buck Peterman](#): What a show! Seen Keb Mo several times, always good, real good, but this was the best. After seeing...

Categories

[All entries](#) | [Classical](#) | [comedy](#) | [dance](#) | [Family](#) | [General](#) | [Movies](#) | [Music](#) | [Opera](#) | [Performance art](#) | [theater](#) | [Video games](#) |

Archives

- [\[-\] 2009 \(266\)](#)
 - [November 2009 \(2\)](#)
 - [October 2009 \(37\)](#)
 - [September 2009 \(23\)](#)
 - [August 2009 \(36\)](#)
 - [July 2009 \(51\)](#)
 - [June 2009 \(18\)](#)
 - [May 2009 \(16\)](#)
 - [April 2009 \(17\)](#)
 - [March 2009 \(27\)](#)
 - [February 2009 \(19\)](#)

Name (required)

Mail (will not be published) (required)

Website

Note: All comments are read and approved before they display. Comments with profanity or personal attacks will be rejected.

HSP90

Native protein isolated from HeLa nuclear extracts as a dimer.

www.vaxron.com

Get Stylin' in Quiksilver at Ron Jon's

Ron Jon Surf Shop fhas an ever changing selection of Mens Quiksilver.

www.ronjonsurfshop.com

Sunnyvale jobs

Local Job Openings Earn \$10.15-\$50.15 per hour

www.americanusajobs.net

Ads by Yahoo!

■ January 2009 (20)

○ [+] 2008 (255)

○ [+] 2007 (227)

○ [+] 2006 (75)

● Pages

○ How to comment

Timesunion.com	Blogs	Obituaries	Corrections	Marketplace	Home Delivery	Services
Home	Weather	Births	Archives	Jobs	Subscription	Help Center
Local News	Traffic	Weddings/Celebrations	Data Center	Real Estate	Customer Care	Contact Us
Your Town	Calendar	Lottery		Cars	Source Card	Hope Fund
Politics	Life	Special Reports	Topics	Shopping	Other Editions	Copyright
Nation/World	Restaurants	Photo Galleries	Home Decor	Classifieds	Mobile site Info	Classroom Enrichment
Opinion	Movies	Video	518 Moms	Yellow Pages	E-Edition	Online Store
Sports	TV Guide	Comics	Entertainment	Today's Print Ads	E-mail Newsletters	Info for Advertisers
Business	Travel	Contests	Local Arts	Place an Ad	RSS Feeds	

[Privacy Rights](#) | [Terms of Service](#)

All Times Union materials copyright 1996-2009, Capital Newspapers Division of The Hearst Corporation, Albany, NY

