

arts/entertainment

Joffrey II dancers lack energy to grab crowd



Members of the Joffrey II Ballet Company prepare for a Tuesday night performance.

By Sioux Braun

As the name suggests, Joffrey II dancers were second-rate Tuesday night at Kimball Hall compared with the quality one would expect from a professional ballet troupe.

From the beginning, there was an absence of energy in the dancers that kept the production from developing into an aesthetically moving experience.

Marjorie Mussman simplistically combined variations of pirouettes and arabesques to choreograph "Random Dances," the first dance of the evening. The repetitive spins and kicks became almost immediately boring.

review

Although the dancers had wonderfully elevated leg extensions, they relinquished all control with their kicks once they positioned their legs to reach high in mid air. In other words, there were no recoveries. And the dancers' enthusiasm was nil.

The kind of choreography in "Random Dances" allowed for lyrical and rhythmic mistakes by overlapping the dance segments and weaving in the groups of performers. Yet various individual errors were obvious.

Many of those errors were delivered by Lee Hutton. He hesitated often and danced as though he was just learning each step by indiscreetly watching the other dancers.

He tried to compensate for his lagging by maintaining a flashy smile that the other dancers failed to bear.

At least, unlike his counterparts, he appeared to be enjoying himself.

One bright star

The choreographer's design staggered formations and diagonal lines well and used the stage completely. However, transforming into those formations seemed to be the problem. The dancers struggled to situate themselves in their respective positions. When the entire group had to intertwine into different formations, the convergence was sloppy.

Dance member Edward Morgan is one asset Joffrey II should relish. Morgan had abilities that radiated among the corps. He captured attention with a forceful style and was as easy to focus on as a talented principal dancer even when his parts were blended with the others.

His movements were accented with an inspiring characterization of "The Rain Maker." With music by Aaron Copland, the piece illustrated human needs. Love, compensation and faith occupied the story of a pioneer community enhanced by a backdrop of dry irrigation fields.

Morgan gave a convincing performance as the title character in his bright red boots and bright red cowboy hat. His concentration was unbroken and his movement was strong and flawless. Along with the ballet, the dance included several square-dance steps.

The role of Sissy, successfully portrayed by Karin Hanson, responded well with the role of the rain maker—their interplay was smooth and relaxed. Morgan and Hanson fused together on stage, the electricity was noticeable. Hanson's appearance in this piece, as well as in others, were disciplined and accurate.

"The Rain Maker" revealed the versatility of the dancers as performers. Some of them could act. Some of them couldn't.

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Armadillo: Shiloh, Thursday through Saturday, \$1 cover Thursday, \$2 cover Friday and Saturday.

B.J.'s Hideaway: Mountain and Babe, Thursday through Sunday, no cover.

Boar's Head: Luke Stevenson, Thursday through Saturday, no cover.

Bob's Tavern: Linda Smith, Friday and Saturday, no cover.

Downstairs: Willie Knight, Thursday through Saturday, no cover.

Drumstick: The Ripchords, Thursday, \$2 cover; Safety Last and The Ripchords, Friday and Saturday, \$2.50 cover.

Green Frog: The Excessives, Thursday through Saturday, no cover.

Gunny's: Boys from Blue Hill, Friday and Saturday, no cover.

Hidden Valley: Paul Phillips, Friday, no cover; Starburst, Saturday, no cover; Safety Creek Pickers, Sunday, no cover.

Kraus' Korner: Crossfire, Thursday through Sunday, \$1.50 cover.

Little Bo's: Footloose, Thursday through Saturday.

O.G. Kelly's: Del Whitcomb Trio, Thursday; Danny Meldon, Friday and Saturday, no cover.

Royal Grove: Main Street, Thursday through Saturday.

Scoreboard: Spike and the Sputniks, Thursday through Saturday, \$1 cover.

Soupsaladalley: Kris Collins, 5-7 p.m. Friday, no cover.

Tucker Inn: Free Ride, Thursday through Saturday, \$2 cover, first drink free.

Westside Inn: Travis Wagner, Friday and Saturday, no cover.

Zoo Bar: Tony Brown Band, Wednesday through Saturday.

Lincoln Community Playhouse: *Last of the Red Hot Lovers*, Thursday through Sunday, 8 p.m.

Studio 12: *Tartuffe*, Thursday through Saturday, 8 p.m., \$4 adults, \$3 students.

MISCELLANEOUS

Mueller Planetarium: *Lord of the Rings*, 2:30 Saturday, 2:30, 3:45 Sunday, \$1.25 adults, 50 cents students.

Sheldon Art Gallery: Senior Art Stu-

dent Exhibition, Thursday through Sunday.

Sheldon Theater: Chamber Concert: Tokyo Quartet, Saturday.

ON SCREEN

Cinema 1: *Hardly Working*, Friday 7:20, 9:20; Saturday and Sunday, 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20 (PG).

Cinema 2: *Back Roads*, Thursday through Sunday, 7:40, 9:40 (R).

Cooper: *Tess*, 6 p.m., 9:10; Saturday and Sunday, 2:50, 6 p.m., 9:10 (PG).



The Scarlet and Cream singers will be giving two performances Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. in Kimball Hall. Tickets are \$4 for adults and \$3 for students.

Douglas 1: *Funhouse*, Friday through Sunday 5:30, 7:30, 9:30 (R).

Douglas 2: *American Pop*, Thursday through Sunday 5:40, 7:40, 9:40 (R).

Douglas 3: *Nine to Five*, Thursday through Sunday, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20 (PG).

Embassy: *Exposed* and *French Wives*, Thursday through Sunday, 10 a.m.-12:30 a.m. (X).

Joyo: *Oh God, Book II*, Thursday through Saturday, 7:30 (PG).

Plaza 1: *Stir Crazy*, Thursday through Sunday, 7:40, 9:50 (R).

Plaza 2: *Cheaper to Keep Her*, Thursday through Sunday, 7:45, 9:50 (R).

Plaza 3: *The Final Conflict*, Thursday through Sunday, 7 p.m., 9 p.m. (R).

Plaza 4: *Scanners*, Thursday through Sunday, 7:15, 9:15 (R).

Plaza 1-4: Midnight movies: *Stir Crazy* (R), *Kentucky Fried Movie* (R), *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* (R), *Scanners* (R).

Sheldon: *My People Are My Home*, Thursday and Friday, 7 p.m., 9 p.m.; *Adam's Rib*, Friday; *Christo, Ten Works in Progress*, Friday and Saturday, 1:30 p.m., *Newsfront*, Sunday, 3 p.m., 7 p.m., 9 p.m.

Starview: *Fame* and *The Rose*, Friday through Sunday, 7:30 p.m.

State: *Jon*, Friday, 7:15, 9:20, Saturday 1 p.m., 3:05, 5:10, 7:15, 9:20 (G).

Stuart: *Ordinary People*, Thursday through Sunday, 2 p.m., 4:30, 7:10, 9:30 (R).

West O: *Hot to Trot* and *The Van*, Friday through Sunday, 7:30, *A Weekend with the Babysitter*, Friday and Saturday third feature.