

Ballet combines classic with modern for vivacious sold-out performance

By Kathy Shults
Staff Reporter

Ballet Eddy Toussaint de Montreal once again captivated audiences with its dynamic yet disciplined dancers in a recent return to Lincoln.

The Montreal Company, founded in 1974 by Haitian refugee Eddy Toussaint, performed Monday and Tuesday evening in Kimball Hall. Both shows were sold out.

Dance Review

Toussaint's pioneering attempts to combine classical ballet with modern dance resulted in an unpredictable, vivacious performance. It is no surprise that he was awarded a gold medal for contemporary choreography at the International Ballet Competition in 1984.

Each dance illustrated Toussaint's passion for simple linear beauty, grand group movements and intricate detail in the use of arms. The dancers

performed with a graceful intensity. The men often demonstrated their versatility and strength through acrobatic lifts and poses, while the women focused more on pointe.

The opening selection, "Concerto Pour Sophie," was created by Toussaint to celebrate the growth and talent of one of his principal dancers, Sophie Bissonette. The dance was pure and graceful, as was the violin concerto Toussaint chose to accompany it. I can see Bissonette as one of his star dancers in a few years.

I was especially impressed with Toussaint's star dancers, Anik Bissonette and Louis Robitaille. Together the couple performed "Ah! Chers Couples" (Ah Dear Couples), a series of pas de deux representing some of history's most well-known couples, including Samson and Delilah, Cleopatra and Marc Antony, and Romeo and Juliet.

"Ah! Chers Couples" was the most lighthearted, whimsical dance of the evening. The emotions Bissonette and Robitaille displayed made the dance wonderfully intriguing. They demonstrated the pushing and pulling rela-

tionships endure through rigid, unconventional movements. The dance was almost a farce.

As Delilah, Bissonette manipulated her partner like a puppet, the two often flexing their wrists and ankles in awkward positions. She was proud and cruel as Cleopatra, conquering Antony with physical violence. The most moving pas de deux was their interpretation of Romeo and Juliet. The partners intertwined their bodies with elegance and beauty. Fluid body movement, leg extensions and sensual lifts demonstrated the couple's strength.

Toussaint's inspirational, religious "Requiem de Mozart" asked why women cannot serve as priests in the Church when in death, people are all alone and sex is irrelevant.

The dance does not follow a story line, nor does it answer the question it poses. It does show women shut out by the Catholic Church. It is the best example of Toussaint's use of massed movement and bravura dance.

The performance was thought-provoking, yet more importantly, it was beautiful to look at.

Music master's voice recital set for Thursday

Marti Baumert, a candidate for a master's degree in the University of Nebraska-Lincoln School of Music, will present her master's voice recital at 3:30 p.m. Thursday in the Sheldon Art Gallery Auditorium.

Baumert, of Lincoln, is a student of Dr. Richard Grace, UNL professor of voice, and has a bachelor of music degree from Nebraska Wesleyan University.

In her recital, she will be assisted

by Michael Cotton on harpsichord and piano. The recital, open to the public without charge, will include among others, secular cantatas by Alessandro Scarlatti, Nicola Porpora and Antonio Caldara.

Station plans to broadcast international TV network

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ITN and channel 61 carried over cable would ensure students' access to the foreign-language programming, he said.

"They (ITN) indicated that a lot of colleges across the country put them on the cable system or helped them gain access to the system," he said.

Kafka said ITN will add something new to his station.

"That might be a way that channel 61 would definitely provide some diversity, because I know that on cable

or even over the air, there is no such thing as foreign-language programming," he said. They will continue to broadcast Hit Video until the lineup for ITN is completely organized.

Channel 61 is changing its format in an attempt to appeal to a larger demographic area of the population, Kafka said.

"There are really two reasons for changing format. One is to get the business community involved with the station, and two is to increase our number of viewers," he said.

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