

WARDANCE

Photos by Ryan Soderlin



MONTAZSTROJ is not your average interpretive dance company. Their performance at the Wagon Train Project's 7th Street Loft Monday night was titled "Everybody Goes 2 Disco From Moscow 2 San Francisco — Re-mix." The show was both violent and energetic while tender and laced with political symbolism. The three Croatian-born performers literally attacked each other — both erotically and angrily — feigning aggressive sex and firing a .38 caliber pistol at each other. Interpretations were open to the audience, but it was hard to ignore political underpinnings stemming from the war in the Balkans. The troupe's next performance will be in Seattle.

Troupe brings traditional dances to Lied

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of the majestic birds wings.

The deer and buffalo dancers copied their animals just as well, utilizing stilts and headdresses, respectively, to form a collection of imitation wildlife eerily reminiscent of the actual creatures.

The social dances of the Eastern Woodland tribes followed, with a jovial scene of merriment populating the stage. The men and women competed with each other to determine the best of the two groups, trying their best to be the most creative and impressive dancers. Several techniques were used, with a moonwalk thrown in for good measure.

After a brief intermission, the familiar dances of the Plains tribes were

performed. The traditional powwow songs of the Lakota prevailed among a group of six drummers, sparking a mixed performance of traditional grass dancing and modern storytelling.

During this segment, a youth and his friends learn traditional dancing from an elder, fending off peer pressure and his own reluctance.

A group of five male fancy dancers took the stage next, decked out in all their regalia. The sharp, bird-like movements of the dancers returned, which, combined with the fantastic costumes, made for the single-most eye-catching part of the performance.

Traditional women's grass dancing was next, followed by the amazing contortions of a hoop dancer. The hoop dancer used both his body and 16 hoops to create amazing visual images,

twisting the hoops around and over his body to make his form seem larger and even more decorative.

To end the performance, the troupe danced to a thoroughly modern song, complete with synthesizers and a MIDI. Coupled with the electronic drums and flutes, all of the dancers shook rattles and moved perfectly in time across the stage, never missing the step.

The American Indian Dance Theatre gave an amazing performance overall, exposing the audience to dances and music those of us in the Plains are not accustomed to. It combined art and nature in a perfect package, filling the soul with the goodness of the world while satisfying the eye and ear at the same time.

Gays watch talk-show trial

PONTIAC, Mich. (AP)—Gay activists say they plan to keep a close watch as a man went on trial today for shooting a gay neighbor after the homosexual professed his love for him on the "Jenny Jones Show."

Jury selection in Jonathan Schmitz's trial began Monday with some 150 prospective panelists filling out questionnaires.

Defense lawyers acknowledged that Schmitz shot Scott Amedure after the taping of the talk show in March, but argue he did not know what he was doing. They say he suffers from Graves' disease, a thyroid condition that affects the nervous system, and thus was not capable of forming the requisite intent needed to be convicted of first-degree murder.

Detroit-area activists contend

Amedure's death is a gay hate crime and they want to make sure that view is not lost in trial coverage.

"This is a clear example of an anti-gay murder," said Jeffrey Montgomery, president of the Triangle Foundation. "There needs to be a voice for Scott."

Schmitz, 26, appeared on the show believing his secret admirer was a woman. He was not told the segment was on same-sex crushes.

Amedure, 32, told the audience he was sexually attracted to Schmitz and described fantasies involving him. Three days later Schmitz went to Amedure's mobile home and shot him to death, telling a 911 operator the man had embarrassed him.

The segment was never broadcast.

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