

Luminario Ballet Opens Miami Dance Festival 2013

By: Marj O'Neill-Butler on April 09, 2013.



photo Scott Belding

Opening night of the 2013 Miami Dance Festival featured a company of dancers from Los Angeles: Luminario Ballet. Known for their aerial dance, this company features highly skilled, well-trained dancers.

The opening piece, *Luminate* featured six dancers trained with traditional technique but danced with a modern edge. There was a lot of contrasting movement, daring lifts and interesting floor patterns.

The second piece on the program was a rope duet entitled *Apogee*, and featured a man and a woman entwined in the rope. There was strength and daring in their performance especially a tumbling fall from the top of the rope. The music by Spectrum of the Sky, reflected the movement very well.

A duet *Winterreise* followed with dancers Season Winquest and AJ Abrams. This piece was a traditional pas des deux, beautifully danced, but far less interesting choreographically than the more modern work in the program.

My favorite piece, *Lift Ticket*, featured both dancers and aerialists. Although the women wore pointe shoes throughout the evening, this dance seemed to have a much more modern touch. The lifts were animalistic in their attack and release. The middle section, danced behind a red curtain, was less effective, but when red cloth ropes were dropped from the grid they were used interestingly. The dancers hid behind and within them, twisting, circling, lifting and spinning.

If the Walls Could Scream, a ballet for six dancers, showed fierce partnering both rough and electric. The men were choreographed to use their whole bodies and showed tremendous upper body strength. The couple dressed in black were powerhouses. When these two were joined by another male dancer, the movement was asymmetrical and



mesmerizing.
by Scott Belding

Kashmir - photo

The final piece, *LedZAerial*, used the music of Led Zeppelin. It was circus like in four sections. In *Kashmir* white curtains were dropped that could be used to wrap, wave and hide in. The two men looked in danger at one point when the bar they were suspended from suddenly dropped into view. They exited shortly thereafter. *Ramble On* concluded the show. This piece showcased dancers dressed in black and white stripes, moving in hoops suspended from the grid as well as dancing across the floor. Like a circus, there was always something to look at.

Although I am not a fan of Cirque type entertainment, I enjoyed this performance very much. The dancers were exquisitely trained and the choreography was unique. No one in the Miami area is doing work like this.