

## Dancing like robots and ice skaters

The company has been in existence for nearly 10 years and this year they are on European tour for the first time. It is a furious modern Jazz dance troupe that performed on Thursday evening at the Theater Casino in Zug with original music selections, surprisingly fresh choreographies and a broad stylistic spectrum of Jazz dance from Tango to ballet. The audience reacted enthusiastically.

### Pirouettes and Pairs

The opening scene is accompanied by a catchy piano ostinato and playful jingling, the dancers alternate back and forth between bolt upright pirouettes and sexy hip-swinging with breathtaking precision while playing with unexpected flexibility of the body.

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### In the end, the eye can no longer separate the individual movements.

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Particularly in the subsequent choreography, three men pick up each loosely descending tune with anticipatory resonance; they jump about the stage like silent movie actors and shake arms and legs until they nearly snap out. Stimulating the mind, a pair scene accompanied by romantic music follows with tumultuous flight and attraction moments and swing figures worthy of figure skating.

### Just like the Chippendale

A break with the easy agreement follows: wild drum music begins to which a solo dancer is contorting her body snakelike on the spot, and just like in a conjuration ceremony is increasingly falling into a trance and ultimately moving so fast that the eye can no longer separate the individual movements blending all of them together. After these visual fireworks, a relaxed, snippy melody is heard to which the dancers roll in on chairs dressed as a mix of cowboys and construction workers reminiscent of the Chippendales. They flirt with this erotic image, which actually displays the art of moving gymnastically through the room with the chairs without losing dancing elegance.

### Perfect body control

The playful element continues. In magical group choreography, the dancers then glide across the stage in shiny golden costumes; they whirl like flighty insects and sometimes collide in an embrace.

The strongest solo in the second half of the program is a kind of robotic dance accompanied by industrially sounding

music in which a dancer slides her body in aggressive helplessness from one extreme position to the next with perfect body control. The gruff music is on her heels and chases her, she tries to avoid it but does not escape it.

### Awkward beginners

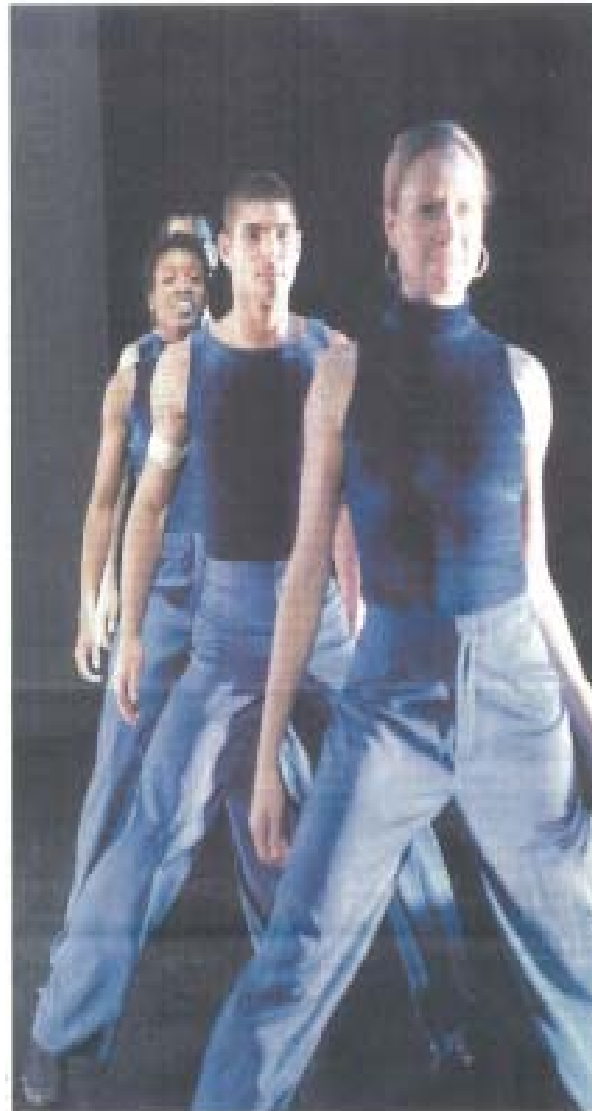
As a finale there are "Five Easy Lessons", in which the stage becomes a dancing school and a capricious dance queen repeatedly pulls away from the arms of bloody beginners

to the line: "Please Mr. Smith, It's a lady you're dancing with". Thereupon, two students approach each other secretly, wild like young dogs they frolic accompanied by "Don't let me love you", and hold back in embarrassment when the other dancers reappear and imitate the awkward beginners with accomplished style.

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### REFERENCE

►www.rivernorthchicago.com ◀



Virtuos: Dancers from Chicago  
PICTURE: DOMINIK HOEDEL

### EXPRESS

►On Thursday, the North Chicago Dance Company appeared in Zug.

►The Dance Company celebrated its European premiere at the Theater Casino.

►During their performance, the dancers exhibited all styles.