

Fantastically unreal, but very enticing

Demonstrated in the theater with dances, choreographies and lighting designs by the Chicago Jazz Dance Company

By Hans-Adalbert Karweik

MITTE-WEST. The River North Chicago Dance Company gave a brilliant performance on Wednesday evening in the theater on the Klieversberg. Under the artistic direction of Frank Chavez, the professional dance company showed genuine American flair. In 1992, Chavez first assumed charge of choreography and in 2001, he took on sole leadership of the troupe. An audience of 250 watched spellbound for two hours, and was not sparing with applause.

The varied and spirited repertoire was based on contemporary Jazz dance and has superior entertainment value. Outstandingly trained dancers, frequently fantastical, but always stimulating music and extremely demanding choreographies contributed to the success.

During the performance, the stage was kept dark almost throughout, cleverly illuminated with sparse light to emphasize the important dance elements. The dancers pirouetted through the light beam in glittering gowns and created magical kaleidoscopic views of the stage. Even a dance with chairs was structured in such a way that the glittering legs of chairs were easier to see than the dancers. Everything was fantastically

unreal, yet enticing. The skillful lighting put more emphasis on the dance movements than on the individual dancers.

The choreography changed ten times. There was traditional Jazz dance with a merry touch, a charming duet about advances and abduction, a Pas de Deux inspired by Russian composers, even a solo for one dancer in which improvisations were an important element. In one dance, three dancers were on stage performing in three dancing styles where flowing Jazz dance, athletically modern movements, and African traditions converged into a joint presentation.

Five dances reminding of the Jazz dance of the late 50s provided a fresh and amusing finale that was rich in ideas. Everything fit. It was a collaborative effort in which costume design and lighting design made valuable contributions in addition to the mimes on the stage.

About the Anniversary

Three bands, all a cappella, will sing at the 35th anniversary of the Theater on Saturday at 9:00 p.m. Vocaldente, a boys group, LaLeLu, Comedy, and Viva Voce, Vox-Pop. The evening runs at prices of 35 years ago, except they are in Euros: Euro 4 – 9. 0 53 61) 26 73 12



The River North Dance Company came from Chicago and performed brilliant Jazz dancing in the theater on Klieversberg

Photo: Helge Landmann w27

WN 10-04-2008