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Performing Arts: Dance

AMY MARSHALL DANCE COMPANY

March 29, 2010

The Amy Marshall Dance Company is celebrating its 10th anniversary year. Three of six works, A Gift, Riding the Purple Twilight, and Going For The Gold are premieres for its New York City season.

The beginning and ending of the Gabrielle Roth (known as the "urban shaman,") score for A Gift, is the sound of a heartbeat. The piece features company founder and choreographer, Amy Marshall, in solo performance. This short delicate work of softness, with lots of wavy port de bras, around an altered torso, might be something she would do in her living room.

Here, she chooses to share these private moments with the audience. In this instance I would never doubt, nor question, the intentions of a woman seven months pregnant and in the full cycle of life.

In the context of earlier works, like English Suite (2005) where the dancers' movements are metered to the music and coalesce into a picture perfect summer day in the country, Riding the Purple Twilight, is the exact opposite. Ms. Marshall daringly sets out a challenge for herself and for the dancers.

Set to a quick paced commissioned score by Kevin Keller, Marshall chooses to choreograph on the fast tempo. This makes it hard to catch the point of view and the shape of the work. As the choreography settles into the dancers bodies and they define the stops and starts, the exactness of the phrasing and hopefully find a brief moment that pulls together the choreographic intent, the reward of this gusty new direction will become clear.

Clichéd, bold, obvious, and fabulously entertaining and wildly comedic, Going For The Gold, as in the Olympics, is bound to be a hit and audience favorite. Romping to the music of Hooked on Classics, 14 dancers swim, fence, run relays, hurdle, march, strut, waltz, cancan kick, with such fun and enjoyment their exuberance is contagious.

C.A. Dobush