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- Home
- Macau
- Delta
- Opinion
- China
- Asia-Pacific
- World
- Business
- Culture
- Sports
- Supplements
- Focus
- Insight
- Last 7 Days
- Weekend
- Our team
- Editorial status
- Code of Ethics

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## The changes according to Amy Marshall Dance Company

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Monday, 20 October 2008

Amy Marshall danced for the Macau audience on Saturday. The New York modern dancer and choreographer along with her dance company brought the show titled "Tides of Change" all the way from the US to the Macao Cultural Centre.

As a pioneer choreographer known world wide, every dance lover wouldn't miss the show, but at the same time, it seems that fame does not always stand for an outstanding performance. The expectation was really high at the beginning of the show, and maybe, that's exactly the problem. The beginning was strangely poor and the final performance showed the lack of experience of the local dancers on Amy Marshall's dancers' side. But the middle was worthy of it all.

The first dance "Fire of the Dove", based on Joan Of Arc's final moments as the fire consumed her, was a fearless feat. Some of the "Fire of Dove" moments could even bring tears to your eyes, thanks to the always amazing performance of Chad Levy, dancer and executive director of the company, and the sensitive expression of pain personified by Amy Marshall, as the young Joan tried for heresy in a politically motivated religious court. Nevertheless, the dance was strongly repeated, very tiring and some of the dancers were not really able to "mechanise" some movements, giving it a feeling of not being very well rehearsed. "Unharvested" was a breath of fresh air. Based on a Robert Frost poem, through this dance the company combined wonderful movements and sequences with a very strong emotional feeling that could really bring forth your own emotions. At that point all of the "not so dazzling" feelings were swept away. In the "Duet" it turned even better. Duet was defined in the programme as "a study in a musical score's intricacies. Utilising the work by the Interlochen percussion ensemble, the choreographer delved into themes of competition in collaboration with teamwork to create this work". Both Chad Levy and Natasha Czarniewy envisioned the stage as if they were a crowd of people dancing. Everything was energetic: the music, the green lighting design and of course the two dancers.

"Homeland" was not as dazzling as the two dances before, but you could understand the story, and you could really connect with the characters' feelings. Originally commissioned by Oakland Dance Theatre in Rochester Hills, Michigan, "Homeland" is a man's journey away from his family in search of a better life. Once again, the music of Sergei Prokofiev fitted like a glove and so did the costumes.

"Tides of Change" closed the Amy Marshall Dance Company's Macau show. This world premiere commissioned by the Macao Cultural Centre was inspired in the Macau "beauty, tradition, value and sacred moments". It was choreographed by Amy Marshall along with two local dancers, Stella Ho and Candy Kuok for the "Dance to New York - Choreographer Exchange Program". This program lasted seven months and it took Stella Ho and Candy Kuok to New York, to live and breathe Amy Marshall modern dance professionalism.

With a well-structured feature, its form however, was not as sharp. You could really tell the difference between the Amy Marshall dancers and the local chosen dancers. Although, Stella Ho and Candy Kuok have proven their hard work in New York, the rest of the dancers didn't appear to have the time to practice and understand Marshall's ways. Despite this, beautiful movements along with the voluminous costumes filled the stage with grace as well power. Taking Amy Marshall's words about "Tides of Change" you can sum up the show in one sentence: "Change is inevitable, tradition and beauty are everlasting".

### ARCHIVE

- December, 2008
- November, 2008
- October, 2008
- September, 2008
- August, 2008
- July, 2008
- June, 2008
- May, 2008
- April, 2008
- March, 2008