

Petites Formes

Compagnie Ivoire makes Canadian debuts for Dunn Theatre audience

BY JANET FRENCH

Provocative and stunning, Compagnie Ivoire delighted a Dunn Theater audience on October 1 with *Petites Formes*, a contemporary dance performance. The event, made possible by local organization Alliance Francaise, marks the debut performance of Compagnie Ivoire in Canada.

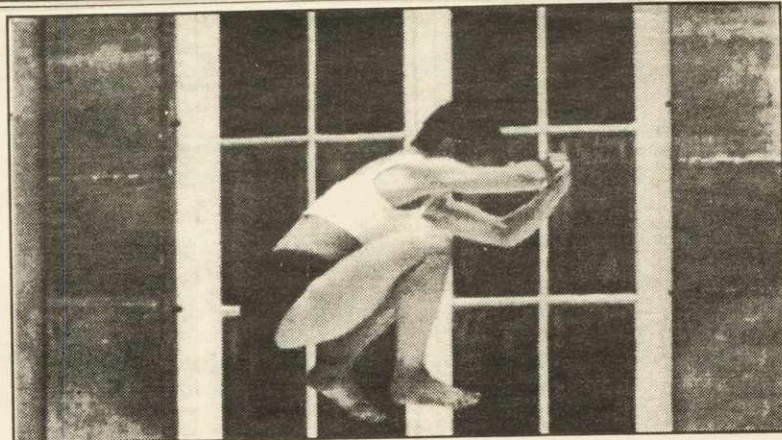
Consisting of five pieces, *Petites Formes* is the creation of French-Algerian choreographer Heddy Maalem. Maalem draws from his background of martial arts and dance training to create works which are both physically demanding and sensuous.

A great deal of contrast exists between the works in *Petites Formes*. The two-part duet was brimming with cunning, fluid interaction and seemingly effortless synchronicity. The piece portrayed a female who seemed somewhat frail and dependant on her male counterpart. However, between the two parts of the duet, was *Le beau milieu*, a solo featuring an aggressive female, fearless and in control of her domain. *Le beau milieu* is performed mostly in silence, but the movement is so intense, it is barely noticeable when musical accompaniment appears, then disappears.

Next, the audience is

bombarded with a violent piano assault complete with accoring choreography. Pulsating rapid movements capture an air of tension, and this quick solo, executed with the remarkable talents of dancer Patrick Rebus, is a memorable one. This work is followed gently by *Un petit moment de faiblesse*, a significantly less intense, yet enjoyable solo, performed by Aline Azcoaga.

Petites Formes comes to a close with a piece called *The study of nudes*. A single, piercing fluorescent light illuminates dancer Katia Revelli in this revealing exploration of the human body. This single light



In good Formes: Compagnie Ivoire at the Dunn.

creates an interesting, and perhaps intentional shadowing pattern on the dancer, while gliding through slow sensual movements. It is peculiar that one sees the dancer as nude and natural, until she personifies herself by touching her face. At this point, I immediately came to the realization that she was no longer "nude" but naked. Interestingly enough, my companion for the evening had a

similar thought.

The entirety of *Petites Formes* was an absolute treat. The audience was enthralled, and there was much applause and many hollers of 'Bravo!' The physical and emotional strength and agility of the dancers is to be both commended and revered.

Maalem's choreography is unique and stunning, capturing human nature in a fluid, universal picture.

Symphony starts out

By TRISTAN STEWART-ROBERTSON

In the first concert of the Maritime Pops Series, Symphony Nova Scotia shone, but the group they accompanied didn't quite make it.

The collection of self-written songs performed by the four women of Quartette covered ground in R&B, soul, Cajun, bluegrass, and gospel. The music and lyrics were generally lacking creativity and beauty. The symphony watched their talent go to waste, especially during the solo segment by Quartette.

Only a few remarks were made that the show was not overly impressive. For the most part, the sell-out crowd seemed to enjoy themselves, culminating in a standing ovation.

Perhaps the most important point is that the performers

seemed to enjoy themselves. That is a crucial quality in musical performance and is usually contagious, translating to enjoyment by the audience. Audience reaction aside, the group and their music is not exceptional to begin with.

Do not let this one instance of bad programming discourage you from attending future symphony shows. The symphony, despite the tragic loss of conductor laureate and artistic advisor Georg Tintner, possess an immense quality well worth discovering. Students can purchase tickets to four shows for only \$44 or day-of-show tickets at 50 percent off. Pick up a copy of the symphony's 17th season program in the Dal Arts Center, where you can also find the box office, or by calling 494-3820. I can't plug this enough — it's a fantastic bargain for a great bit of culture.

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