

Kingston troupe goes for light, enjoyable dance

Pam Johnson
Spindrift, a young, bright dance company from Kingston, Ontario made their second Toronto appearance at Harbourfront from November 25-28 as part of the *Dance Canada Series*. They gave a satisfying, if not cathartic, performance. Credit is due both to choreographer, Charles Mathieu Brunelle and the six dancers for using satirical comedy with integrity. Highly polished movement created an intense but not showy performance.

Three pieces highlighted different aspects of the company's abilities. The first piece, *Street Music*, is a strong dance with very few dramatic or literal moments. It successfully shows young street characters who are tough and trying to remain "cool". William Russo's piano and harmonica score sets the piece in industrial Middle America rather than the trendy urban coasts. By intertwining the movement and the music, Brunelle successfully creates a sense of hopeful angst about urban survival.

The second piece, *Channel*, is a

dramatic satire with a few bright movement sections. This treatment of a familiar theme—the power of television illusion—was told as the story of the ancient pagan god, Baal. Brunelle's use of narration is interesting, but rather weak. It is saved by movement that enhances the feeling of the menacing power of the media.

Primavera, the final piece, is done in three movements representing Spring in Italy during three different eras. Brunelle takes on a character role as an odd and diabolical "Master of Ceremonies." The first movement is set in 17th century Italy, the time of the *Commedia del' Arte*. The dancers, dressed Harlequinade-like, perform a section of comic but fluffy slapstick. This was followed by the one emotive dance in the whole evening—a solo depicting a love lost woman. Evidently the choreographer is more comfortable in the comic mode.

The second movement, *Spring in 1920's Italy*, depicts the rise of Fascism and foreshadows its eminent demise through the death of a young "daughter of Italy." Section three is set in Italy of the 1970's at the discotheque. Although it is about over-confident, chic social dancing, the meaning of this section is unclear.

Spindrift is a consistently pleasing group to watch. Although the message is often weak, the movement is extremely well-crafted. The dancers effectively match fluid high energy with honest commitment to their task, making it easy and enjoyable to get involved.

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—In May 82, the CYSF will hold a referendum asking students the following questions:

In order to see the establishment of an independent Ombudsman/woman office at York, as a student at York I wish to contribute a total of six dollars from my student fees for one year only.

Yes

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