

La La La : in step with the times

by Suzette C. Chan

Movement: falling, jumping, spinning, rolling, floating, running. Edouard Lock is a master at staging motion yet in the lobby of the Four Seasons Hotel between a myriad of interviews, the Montreal choreographer is very calm and composed.

Lock is in Edmonton with La La La Human Steps, the dance and music group he formed five years ago. La La La won praise and international awards for its production of *Businessman in the Process of Becoming an Angel* in 1984, but this time around, the company has another winner its dynamic production, *Human Sex*.

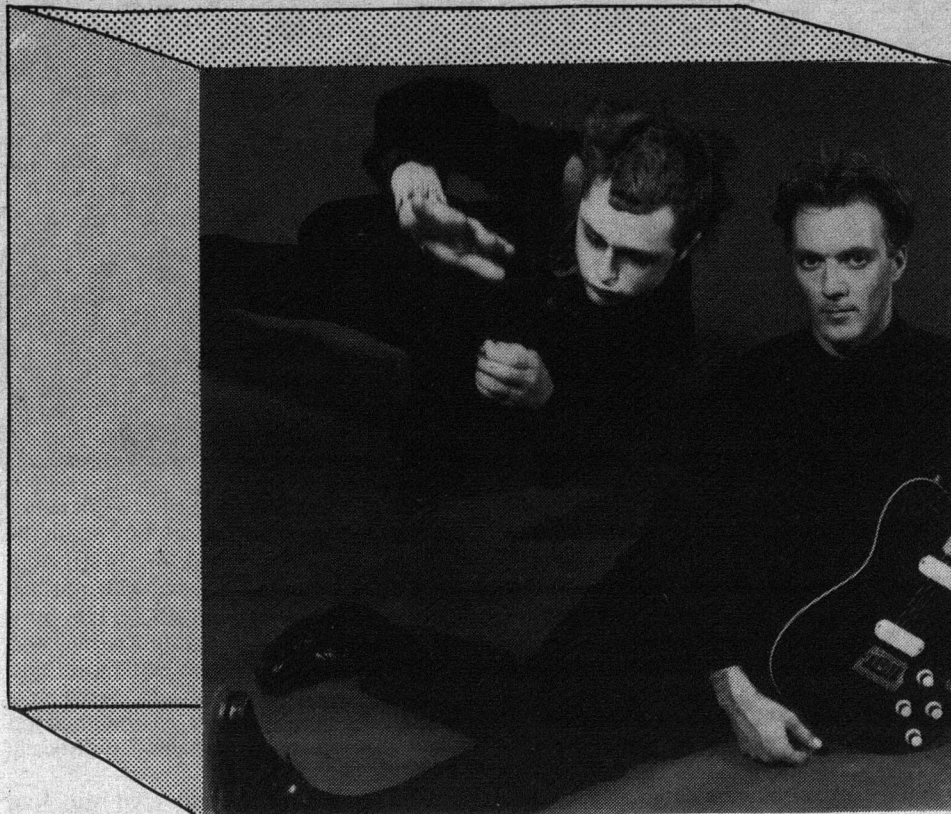
The contrast between Lock's casual exterior and his frenetic work is just the beginning of the world of tension and conflict he explores in *Human Sex*.

In *Human Sex*, Lock pushes dance — and his dance company — to such acrobatic limits that he admits "there is a sense of violence in the show" although he doesn't feel that it's destructive.

"It's not a physical violence," he says. "If that were true, the tour would have ended a long time ago."

Since the show premiered in Vancouver in April, 1985, Human Steps have taken *Human Sex* to Seattle, San Francisco and festivals in Europe, New York and Montreal, sometimes performing four nights in a row.

Since *Human Sex* is akin to a combination of breakdancing and Mad Max, it's obvious the company of four dancers and three musicians have invested a lot of love into the production.



"Rather than just performing masochistic feats, there is pleasure in trusting each other," says Lock.

"Falling down has been ignored in dance. The emphasis has been on jumping up, but you can only go so far before you have to

come down. If you can fall intelligently, then there's no difference."

Consequently, some of the visual delights of *Human Sex* are in the flips and tumbles the dancers use to interact with each other.

"It's not athletics," Lock insists. "It's a way

for thought to get out of the body. What I'm thinking is being expressed in sound waves right now. You are writing it down and that's a muscular way of expression."

While the seemingly-anarchistic dancing may itself be a more direct display of physicality than fans of classical ballet may be used to, there is another jarring element to *Human Sex*: the loud, cacophonous music written by Randall Kay and Louis Seize.

"It's two strong worlds melting," says Lock, who helped write the lyrics. "Traditionally, the music is subservient to the dancing." In *Human Sex*, the music and the choreography engage in a kind of symbiotic conflict to create even more tension. Ironically, Lock did not choreograph *Human Sex* to a soundtrack.

"We worked in silence for nine months; that way I don't get lazy. It has to look good in silence. Then [the composer] can go for the music he likes to conceive."

As he works on each of his projects, Lock assesses its audience appeal. "You can't anticipate audiences because they're so different [with respect to geography]. *Human Sex* may appeal to a youth-oriented group, but I've seen older people really enjoying it and young people not liking it at all."

Audiences often bring their cultural baggage to new productions, but when you go to see La La La Human Steps, leave it at home. You're best exploring Edouard Lock's brave new world without expectations.

La La La Human Steps performs the show *Human Sex* tonight and tomorrow night at SUB Theatre. Tickets are still available.

Tee-Vee Toons are a trip down memory lane

Television's Greatest Hits Tee-Vee Toons/A & M

review by Don Teplysk

"It's How-dee Doo-dee time"
"— at the junction — Petticoat Junction"
"... all together ooky, the Addams Family"

Sound familiar?

They should. These tidbits represent that great American cultural contribution — television.

There are only two things wrong with this album of television themes from the 'fifties and 'sixties.

The first problem is that the two-record set reminds one of the United States' preoccupation with its glory days before Nixon, Toyota and Curtis Strong. Why else was there an *American Grafitti*, or *Laverne and Shirley*?

This nostalgic obsession that America has with itself, while not only self-congratulatory, is evidence that the nation has little to be proud of today.

This package is a testimony to the incredible amount of junk television that has been produced by America; few, if any, of the sixty-five shows represented could be labeled 'quality television'. From poorly acted cop shows ("Adam-12"), to amateurish children's animation ("The Jetsons"), to unbelievable secret agents ("Get Smart"), the shows of this time are notable only for their lack of redeeming value.

Still, I love this album.

Who does not recall rushing home after school to sing along with the opening credits of "Gilligan's Island" ("... the profesor and Maryann, here on Gilligan's Island") or the "Beverly Hillbillies" ("... oil that is, black-

gold, Texas Tea") reruns.

Thought about "Magilla the Gorilla" lately?

I know I'll never forget the episode in which the Little Girl took Magilla home to meet the folks. And, after all these years, the theme holds up.

Surprisingly, several tunes in this package do stand up on their own. "Dobit Gillis" is a fine slice of jazz, "77 Sunset Strip" is a viable Jan and Dean ripoff, while the "Andy Griffith Show" is a great piece of whistling.

This is by no means a complete collection. "The Brady Bunch", "It's About Time", and "My Mother the Car" are notable by their absence.

As much as I want to hate this album of American culture, I can't.

There are just too many memories with each show.

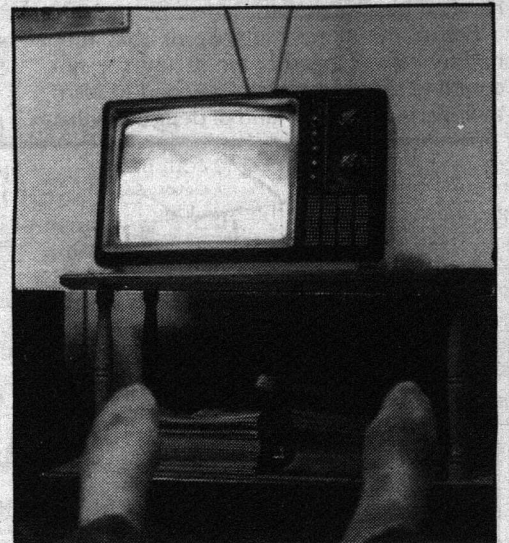


Photo Alex Miller

Asian Culture Night

Date: January 25, '86 7:30 - 10:30 pm

Ticket: \$3 (student with I.D.)

\$4 (U of A employee)

\$5 (general public)

Place: SUB Theatre, U of A

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Chinese Library Association
New Dragon Seafood Restaurant
Asia Books and Gifts
tickets at door or SUB 030V

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Dun Huang Ribbon Dance
Royal feather fan dance
Mongolian wine cup dance
dance, drama, drama, singing
piano solo, talk show

Tentative Asian Ethnic Groups:

Korean Students' Association
Taiwan Alumni Association
Indian Students' Association
Vietnamese Students' Association
Thailand ethnic group & others



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Chinese Student Drama Association

(programs subject to change without notice)

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