

Jazz never looked so good

BY ALEXIS MILLIGAN

As the curtain closed, my heart was literally pounding: the power of movement I had just witnessed left me breathless. Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal — who performed on January 22 at the Rebecca Cohn — blew me away and all I, and many others in the audience, could say was, "Wow!"

Tuesday night I had the opportunity to take a class with Edgar Zendejas, a dancer with Les Ballet Jazz, and it was great. Trying to keep up with the fluidity and crispness of his movement was very difficult. When I saw him on stage I understood why. The speed and detail of the work that was needed for the pieces must have taken some time to perfect.

The first piece was choreographed by Crystal Pite, a dancer and choreographer with Ballet British Columbia. Two summers ago I worked with Crystal when she re-set her piece, *Dans Maen*, on the Halifax Dance Young Company. She created *Pendulum* for Les Ballets Jazz and inspired Alex Tsisserev to write the score for it. It had a strict beat and defined accents that drove the movement relentlessly.

The second piece was a change in the program entitled *Rise and Fall*, and was choreographed by

New York's hottest dance maker, Dave Parsons. It had a high-energy laziness about it; frantic movements followed by complete release.

It's in the Air, by Rodrigo Pederneiras, a choreographer with the Brazilian dance company Grupo Corpo, was based on themes by Duke Ellington. It had the same sort of dynamic energy, with incredible duet and trio work.

One thing that I noticed about the show was that each piece was very similar. The lighting, soloists, music, and even the titles suggested comparable themes. By the second intermission, I was looking forward to something different — I never got it. It is interesting how three different choreographers from three totally different countries can develop such similarities. That is my only negative comment: diversity in this show was definitely needed.

As I sat in Cafe Mokka afterwards — it was my night for jazz — I had the opportunity to talk to some of the audience members. One lady, my apologies for not getting her name, said something that I'm sure will help everyone understand how wonderful the show was: "It was so intense I didn't even crave a cigarette."



Le Ballets Jazz de Montréal

No robots aloud

BY SHELLEY ROBINSON

Steve Kocic has a radio show called Satan's Trampoline, and he's asking people to donate \$6.66 to help keep the station where he volunteers — CKDU — running smoothly.

Kocic is one of over 160 volunteers at the community radio station housed in Dalhousie's Student Union Building (SUB).

Each year since CKDU got its FM frequency licence, broadening its range from only the university to Halifax, it has relied on the funding drive.

"It's a double-tiered thing, we need the money and it's another chance for us to go out there and say, 'Hey, we're here, this is what we're doing,'" explains volunteer co-ordinator Kasia Morrison.

Last year's goal of \$45,000 was met and exceeded. This year's goal is \$50,000.

"We're trying to raise a third of our budget...which isn't much money for the seven days a week, 24 hours a day programming that we do," says station manager Karen Marchand. "We are bare bones to our budget — we count paperclips — this is just to keep us going, to count paperclips."

This year's funding drive, the station's twelfth, starts on January 31st with a kick-off at 1 p.m. in the SUB lobby and runs until February 9th.

The money, raised mostly through the advance and on-air pledges to individual shows and their DJs, also includes the money raised through the events held during Funding Drive.

This year's events include a showing of *Pump Up the Volume* at Wormwood's theatre, as well

as an all-ages Elevator to Hell gig in the McInnes Room.

This year's funding drive slogan, "you and me and a microphone — no robots aloud", is an allusion to CKDU's 24 hour live broadcasts instead of the satellite broadcasts of local mainstream stations. CKDU is mandated to cover issues and music ignored by the mainstream.

"There's nothing out there commercially...how many times are we going to have to hear the Eagles?" complains Morrison.

"[CKDU is] alternative radio. That's not a style of music, but an approach to how radio is performed, and what we try to do is be a voice...so that as many people from the community and from campus can come here and have their voices heard."

For Kocic, the reasons the

funding drive is important are the same reasons why CKDU itself is important.

"Satan's Trampoline plays heavy metal, which the media has more or less written off as dead in the last four or five years, so it's been the best time in the world to do a metal show. We look at ourselves as facilitators. We should...be a voice for the people out in Halifax who are still listening to what they call heavy metal."

Kocic's first show was during funding drive two years ago — he made \$200 that first year, \$426 the next and he's confident he'll exceed this year's goal of \$500.

"Most people will contribute," says Kocic. "[I] just tell them the importance of CKDU, which maybe I think even some programmers here take for granted."

See Dick.

See Dick run.

Run Dick run!

Dick sees Spot.

Spot sees Dick.

Spot likes Dick.

Spot licks Dick.

Good Spot, good Spot!

Careful now spot...

There is a spot for you within the pages of the Gazette Arts Section. Come see John and Andrew at staff meetings - Monday's at 4:30 in room 312 of the SUB.



CKDU Funding Drive Events

Friday, Jan. 31

1:00 p.m. CKDU Alumni Kick-off
— Tune in as CKDU programmers from years gone by return to the airwaves.
2:30 p.m. Kick Off!
— Student Union Building. With the State Champs, Mike LeBlanc, Stinkin' Rich and Hercules. Free.
11:00 p.m. *Pump Up the Volume*
— A film about youthful insubordination through radio, at Wormwoods Cinema on Gottingen St.

Saturday, Feb. 1

2:30 p.m. East Coast Traditional Jam
— With various members of the Maritime Celtic music community at Beirut Beirut, 1672 Barrington St. Pay what you can (suggested \$5).

Sunday, Feb. 2

3-7:30 p.m. All Ages Show
— Indie rock at the McInnes Room of the Dal SUB. Featuring Elevator to Hell, Rome Plows and Plumtree. \$5 in advance/\$7 at the door.

Thursday, Feb. 6

9:00 p.m. Dance Party
— At Reflections Cabaret with six of Halifax's hottest DJ's: Devin S., Murray Trider, Tony Hage, DJ Nemesis, DJ Mindtrip and Witch Doc. \$4/\$3 with Friend of CKDU Card.

Friday, Feb. 7

9:00 p.m. Stepping Out with CKDU
— Leave the mosh pit behind and bring in the swing! Appearing at Birdland Cabaret: Bengazi Saxophone Quartet, members of the McCrimon's Revenge, Dusty Sorbet and the 3 Bunioneers, and Avengers 7. \$5/\$4 with Friend of CKDU Card.

Saturday, Feb. 8

Thrush Hermit CD release party
— At Birdland Cabaret. \$5/\$4 with Friend of CKDU Card.