

Dancers act like children

By MARILYN M. BOUMA

The enjoyment, I believe, was to be the doers', not the observers'. They were neither mature dancers nor actors, neither accomplished gymnasts nor acrobats. They were like children who have gone to the same playground monkey bars for years.

But then, even children have displayed more daring and exerted more energy than what I saw performed on York University's Burton Auditorium stage last Wednesday night. The performance was given by the New York-based **Multigravitational Aerodance Group**. The potential for living theatre existed, but this group could not even harness it, much less drive that energy towards some form of artistic expression.

Even before the intermission I could sense an atmosphere of stifled yawns and an unhelped boredom in the audience.

A theatrical performance

requires the absolutely essential element of communication between audience and performer. Otherwise it has no right to be in a theatre. It becomes a farce, a gimmick, something that can hardly be forgiven. But that is an issue which people must deal themselves with.

The first of the two piece programme was called **Buff Her Blind - To Open the Light of the Body**. The performers walked, bounced, and rolled across ropes which were strung across on a scaffold. Sometimes a pair would move synchronously across but most of the time each performer moved in their own fashion. Sometimes they would drop in level from one rope to another but never did they take any risks.

They played the game too safely and hung on too securely to those ropes to even incite a tingle of sensation or daring. There was neither the thrill and daring of a

circus act nor the wide-eyed realization of a happening.

Perhaps some outward images of the second piece, **Homage to Picasso**, slightly resembled the images in Picasso's art but the artistic or inner spirit did not pulsate.

The performance consisted of two people writhing against a wall, two others sensuously slithering down ropes, and the remaining two performers moving back and forth on horizontal ropes and falling forwards and backwards supported by shoulder harnesses.

If this performance was a reminder of alienated human beings entangled in the webs of fate then the performance was successful.

If I go to the theatre I want to at least see an artistic interpretation of this theme. That requirement was not fulfilled by any of the Multigravitational Aerodynamic Group's performance.

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