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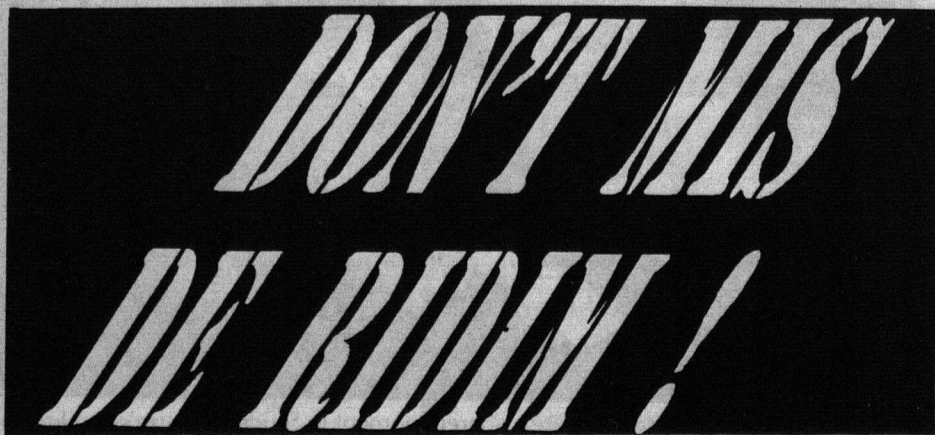
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Daring Webb goes solo

interview by Rosa Jackson

Nobody can accuse modern dancer Brian Webb of playing it safe in his work. His latest creation is of epic proportions, telling the story of the biblical hero Jacob who "survives through huge emotional and spiritual growth" after wrestling an angel from dusk until dawn.

Appropriately called *wrestling*, the piece, according to Webb, explores both the good and evil sides of man's nature. "It is a religious piece," he says emphatically. "I'm treating Jacob as a clown-like character or as Everyman."

Wrestling will be Webb's first full-length solo performance. It grew out of a shorter piece, *Bohater*, which Webb performed last year in the show *Bone White Time*. At 83 minutes long, it pushes his endurance to the limit. A recent day of continuous rehearsal left him completely drained. "I thought I was going to die!" he says.

Webb combats this exhaustion with "good rest, lots of vitamins and release work." Since working on his dance technique actually increases rather than releases tension, he uses a form of callasthenics called the "Pillates Technique" to relax.

Despite the sense of isolation and the added pressure that performing solo produces, Webb finds it rewarding. "I do miss that communal atmosphere with other dancers," he says, but adds, "it's very interesting to perform as a solo artist. I find it quite liberating; I feel very free up there. I can communicate very directly with the audience."

This show's "absolutely massive" set will help to involve the audience in the performance, says Webb. Edmonton artist Blair Brennan's sculpture has been incorporated into the set, which also includes a ramp extending into the audience.

The performance begins with Webb installing the sculpture in the area where the orchestra pit would normally be. Webb will have a big wheelbarrow full of children's shoes, which he will methodically nail onto a grid through the toe. There are almost 50 pairs of shoes, according to Brennan. Each shoe will contain a lit candle; the candles will remain lit until the end of the show.

This grid design is typical of Brennan's sculpture. "My sculpture deals with repeated images," he says. "They're attractive because they have relevance in your life." He describes one of his sculptures, displayed at The Works festival in 1987, as consisting of broken windshield glass combined with cigarette butts and garbage in a grid of little anvils. "It's

kind of an obsessive-compulsive disorder," he says of his work.

Brennan and Webb previously collaborated for "Bone White Time." The experience proved rewarding for both artists. "The collaboration with Blair had pushed me forward," says Webb. This time, Webb says he "wanted to work with elements of Blair's sculpture but in a more organic way."

Brennan believes that "collaborating can make you stretch your limits as an artist." His relationship with Webb has been free of conflict. "As far as decision making goes, it's give and take," he says. "I wouldn't hesitate to work with Brian again."



A third artist to be involved in *Wrestling* is composer George Arasimowicz, who wrote all the music for the show. Studying at the California Institute of Performing Arts opened Webb's eyes to the "possibility of people from different media working together. There's a lot of communication between all the departments there."

Combining such diverse talents for this show was not a major departure for Webb's company, however. "We rarely danced to recordings," he says, "so we always had that [collaboration] — but never to this intensity."

All three artists graduated from the University of Alberta's BFA program — Webb studied drama, Brennan visual art, and Arasimowicz music. This show is, then, a tribute to the BFA program's success.

Wrestling will be performed at the John L. Haar Theatre (Grant MacEwen Jasper Place Campus) November 16, 17, and 18 at 8 p.m.

FM88 Playlist

CJSR FM • Cable 104.7 FOR THE WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 8, 1989

TW	LW	WO	ARTIST	ALBUM	LABEL/DIST/ORIGIN
1	2	4	RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS	Mother's Milk	EMI/Capitol/US
2	-	1	DE LA SOUL	3 Feet High and Rising	Tommy Boy/Polygram/US
3	4	3	SPIRIT OF THE WEST	Old Material 1984-1986	Stony Plain/CC
4	1	5	BOB DYLAN	Oh Mercy	Columbia/CBS/US
5	6	2	KATE BUSH	The Sensual World	Capitol/EMI/UK
6	9	3	MICHEL COTE	Bruire	Ambiances Mag./CC
7	10	6	JANE SIBERRY	Bound by the Beauty	Duke Street/CC
8	3	3	FAITH NOLAN	Freedom to Love	Aural Tradition/CC
9	7	3	YOUNG MC	Stone Cold Rhymin'	Island/MCA/US
10	23	2	RORY MCLEOD	Footsteps and Heartbeats	Cooking Vinyl/UK
11	-	1	JOHN LEE HOOKER	The Healer	Chameleon/A&M/US
12	-	1	NEIL YOUNG	Freedom	Reprise/WEA/CC
13	-	1	JESUS AND MARY CHAIN	Automatic	Blance Y Necro/WEA/UK
14	26	5	SOUNDGARDEN	Louder than Love	A&M/US
15	18	2	PASTELS	Sittin' Pretty	Homestead/Dutch East/UK
16	13	2	BLUE RODEO	Diamond Mine	WEA/CC
17	8	2	MIGHTY LEMON DROPS	Laughter	Sire/WEA/UK
18	-	1	TIMBUK 3	Edge of Allegiance	IRS/MCA/US
19	5	3	RIPCORDZ	Ripcordz Are Go!	Og/CC
20	-	1	VARIOUS ARTISTS	Now Rap's What I Call Music	Polygram/US & UK

TOP 10 SINGLES, EP'S, AND CASSETTES

1	3	2	JR. GONE WILD	Folk You: Guido Sessions	CC
2	1	6	EJ BRULE	Freedom of Speech (Tape)	CC
3	5	2	DEPECHE MODE	Personal Jesus	Sire/WEA/UK
4	10	2	JOHN OSWALD	S. Field (Tape)	CC
5	2	5	MC 900FT JESUS	Self-titled (EP)	Netwerk/Capitol/US
6	RE	2	CLOCK DVA	The Act (12")	Wax Trax/Cargo/UK
7	6	3	CONSOLIDATED	Self-titled (EP)	Netwerk/Capitol/US
8	4	3	COWBOY JUNKIES	Self-titled (EP)	Cooking Vinyl/BMG/CC
9	RE	7	FUGAZI	Margin Walker (EP)	Dischord/Cargo/US
10	-	1	SHAWN PINCHBECK	Tonepleromas (Tape)	CC

- compiled by Glenn Drexhage, Music Director