



[home](#) [reviews](#) [request a review](#) [contact](#)

[Home](#) » [Program 1 Ballet BC - Trademark Effortless Grace](#)

Program 1 Ballet BC - Trademark Effortless Grace



I make no secret of the fact that I am a huge fan of Ballet BC. I was delighted to discover Vancouver's resident contemporary dance company when I moved here from England three years ago. Even within that short time they have grown in stature, exuding a quiet confidence in all they do. They have become highly respected by audiences, critics, and choreographers alike. The success of the company is, in large part, down to director, Emily Molnar, who skilfully broadened the appeal of Ballet BC without compromising an ounce of its artistic integrity. She has continued to push the envelope of artistic excellence and innovation. They are a vibrant company, never complacent, and eager to try new things, and therefore attract the attention of the world's finest and most innovative choreographers looking to try out new work.

Program 1, which opened last night at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre in Vancouver, featured four works by choreographer in residence, Cayetano Soto. The world premier of 'Beginning After' is a beautiful work, with lighting designed by Soto to enhance the monochrome and sparse stage, upon which masculine and feminine identities appear dissolved. The costumes, also of Soto's creation, are uniform, black, high collared leotards that accentuate the body's form. Strong, clearly defined shapes punctuate this piece. Dancers quietly and elegantly exit the stage while my

Search



attention is seamlessly drawn to the next ensemble pair or solo. This is beautifully crafted choreography, perfectly staged with every element in harmony and balance. The music, by Handel, fades at the end of the piece leaving two dancers on stage with their breath rhythmically accenting their remaining movement. It represents but one of the many delicate touches Soto applies to his pieces.

'Fugaz' was written about Soto's father and dedicated to him. Premiered in 2007, last night saw it's first Canadian performance. With music written by Gurdjieff and Thomas de Hartmann, 'Assyrian Women Mourners', this was a powerful and moving piece from the start. Soto again makes exquisite use of lighting, creating strong contrasts of light and dark. In all the works in Program 1 it is clear to see the choreographer's attention to detail and his ability to create unique environments for his elegant language of movement to take form.

"Sortijas", also seeing its Canadian premier, is a short duet set to the extraordinary 'What Kind of Heart', by Lhasa de Sela. This is a simple yet visually engaging dance of longing on an empty stage with a backdrop of cloud-like dry ice. I loved that the movement continues as the curtain descends creating a sense of the continuation of the dance and the suggestion of it extending beyond the confines of mere stage and theatre.

The final work of the program was the world premier of "Schachmatt". This was a light-hearted, cheeky, hugely entertaining ensemble piece, which, while being contemporary on many levels also had a sense of being from another time. It put me in mind of quirky, animated sequences of fifties chorus lines. This was a performance full of gusto and humour, exaggeration and play. The ensemble work was striking in its uniform execution and fast pace, and the company delivered with their trademark effortless grace.

Ballet BC never fail to impress and delight, and *Program 1* of this 2016/17 season, sees them continue to demonstrate their class and technical brilliance.

By Lawrence Kelson

Tags: [ballet](#), [Ballet BC](#), [emily molnar](#), [handel](#), [contemporary dance](#), [premiere](#)

0 Comments **Plank Magazine**

 Login ▾

 Recommend  Share

Sort by Best ▾



Start the discussion...

Be the first to comment.

ALSO ON PLANK MAGAZINE

[Piaf and Brel – The Beauty of French Chanson](#)

1 comment • 5 months ago •



Melody Owen — Loved every minute, from the stories to the songs. Melanie Gall has an incredible voice and didn't really ...

[Curious Contagious – Enchanting](#)

1 comment • 5 months ago •



Mary Bennett — If you like shadow puppets, check out Space Hippo too!

[Happiness \(TM\) – Smile and the Fringe Smiles With You](#)

1 comment • 5 months ago •



Melody Owen — I would also have liked more light-hearted absurdity and can say I didn't expect it to take the twists and ...

[Generation Hot: Program B - 3 amazing shows for the price of 1](#)

1 comment • 5 months ago •



Zofia Rose — Hi Julia, the singer in the piece "Saving Mother" is Zofia Rose Musiej and the Director and Playwright, ...



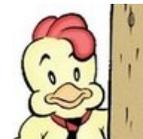
Recent Comments



Marianne Chomiak

Looks like it will be at Arts Club's Goldcorp theatre in the 2017-18 season.

[Forget About Tomorrow: Worth Remembering](#) · 2 weeks ago



Elizabeth Gabrielle Tyrrell

Could the polarity of the energy of the performance be transcended by a build up that leads to an explosion of that energy or simply his style of performance? REpunk

[Jem Rolls' Leastest Flops: Really?](#) · 1 month ago



Zofia Rose

Hi Julia, the singer in the piece "Saving Mother" is Zofia Rose Musiej and the Director and Playwright, as well as the character "Mother" is Crystal Smith. I am a member of Nak'azdli band in the...

[Generation Hot: Program B - 3 amazing shows for the price of 1](#) · 4 months ago

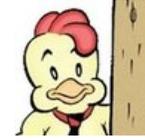


Joseph Langhjelm

Great review! You've got a very eloquent writing style and it was very informative. You put your own opinions in the background

very well whilst disclosing personal sentiments not to the downfall...

[The Long Call — Gangsters, Showgirls, Primatology and Recovery · 4 months ago](#)



• [Lindy Sisson](#)

Thanks so much for coming Julia - so glad we got you movin!! FYI - The time joke is a reference to the Morris Day Shuffle / Morris Day and the Time - from Prince's Graffiti Bridge!
Lindy

[I Have My Own Steps Mom! - Dance, Dance and More Dance · 4 months ago](#)

Copyright & Usage

The reviews and articles on the website can be shared but attribution must be provided.

The text, images, audio, or video are copyright their respective owners.