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Spark-e: Fine Arts Reviews

Summer's Harvest□

Presented by Dance Central

-Mark Taylor

Dance Central's presentation of 'Summer's Harvest', which was directed by Katharyn Horne and Mary Ann Mee, was an awesome spectacle to behold, as I'm sure everyone in attendance would agree. I happened to catch the final showing of the performance on Sunday, September 9, which was a beautiful Sunday afternoon. This only made the whole thing seem more surreal. The first thing I noticed was the anticipation in the crowd, which waited patiently for the production to commence. The mix of family, students, and interested on-lookers had an almost 'I'm on the edge of my seat' sort of look about them, which told me that the same people had not attended all three performances. We were not to be disappointed. As the lights went down in Pease Auditorium we were treated to a very solid performance of 'Saturn's Plateau', which would set the tone for the rest of the day's events. Performers gracefully moved on and off the stage, deftly executing costume changes which would impact the mood of each piece. Moving on to 'Masquerade', which was by far the most humorous of the performances, where we saw the performers don masks representing different creatures in honor of the birth of Prince York. Next came 'Blackberry Mountain' and 'Designs With Strings', which were equally as enlightening, each with an excellent musical accompaniment. Finally we came to the finale, 'Stereo Love', which seemed to feature all of the performers at one point or another. This was a fine finish to a wonderful Sunday afternoon, and the jovial attitude of all involved only added to the contentment in the air. In all this was a very polished performance and all involved should be commended. Everyone involved with Central Piedmont Community College should most certainly make an attempt to come out and support Dance Central whenever you can. These people obviously work very, very hard to make these productions happen, and their contributions should be duly noted. I only regret that space limitations don't allow me to list everyone involved. Upcoming performances are as follows:

'The Nutcracker' - November 23, 24, 25, 30, and December 1, 2.

'Christmas Oratorio' - December 7, 8, & 9.

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The World Goes 'Round : The Songs of Kander & Ebb

Presented by CPCC Theatre

-Mark Taylor

Wow! If you didn't see this musical you missed one the funniest productions this author has ever witnessed. This result can be contributed in no small part to the all-star cast of characters showcased in 'The World Goes 'Round'. Basically this was a sampling on over twelve different musicals, extracted from past Broadway shows such as 'New York, New York', 'Cabaret', and 'Woman of the Year'. The actors are what made the difference here, the real stand out being Susan Roberts Knowlson, a beautiful blond actress with appearances at Opera Carolina, Charlotte Rep, and the HBO series 'Sex in The City' but to name a few. On this night she stole the show and our hearts with solo performances in 'How Lucky Can You Get', 'A Quiet Thing', and 'Crossover #3', not to mention her several other appearances throughout the night. The motivation showed itself in every performance, prompting laughter at every turn. Although there was that constant "tongue-in-cheek" humor, there were also shows of other emotions as well, which made for a well-rounded performance. Ms. Knowlson was not to overshadow the others, though. Mssrs. Ensley, McAllister, Ratchford, and Gerber turned in fine performances as well, not to mention Ms. Deborah Rhodes.

The number of great moments were far too numerous to list here, but rest assured that everything from the set to the choreography was immaculate in this one. You really missed a good one if you weren't able to attend. The CPCC Theatre's next performance is Oct. 12, 13, 14, 19, 20 in which they will perform 'The Boys Next Door', which will be directed by Tom Hollis. Call (704) 330-6534 for ticket information.

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