

# Reel Dance Resonates

Nathaniel Christopher

Movies about dance--not just on Bravo at 3 am anymore! On Friday, February 20, Peterborough New Dance hosted "Reel Dance on the Road: Moving Pictures Festival of Dance on Film and Video" at the Gordon Best Theatre. The evening's colourful mosaic of local, national, and international dance film included several noteworthy works.

## Elevation

Essentially a home video, *Elevation* is nothing more extraordinary than three or four kids running around on a beach, dancing and playing music with driftwood, and a mother relaxing in a floral summer dress, pushing a button marked 'elevation.' Refreshing, innocent and fun, this piece reminds us of the little dancer in all of us. Making excellent use of sunlight and the colours yellow, pink and blue, *Elevation* is the perfect prelude to summer.

## Mirror Image

This film features two dancers: one inside a red and black house, resembling the set of a 1980s music video, and one outside in the rain. They move mostly in unison, occasionally pausing to observe each other, but never talking or touching. The cheesy storyline and terrible music make it all but impossible to focus on the choreography. One audience member confessed that she had a hard time holding in her laughter when she heard the "thump" of synthetic drums--they sounded like something out of an old Ron Jeremy video.

## B-Girl and the Butterfly

I like this one--It looks like a short clip of someone having a good day, accompanied by uplifting and reassuring music. The film's dialogue consisted of an answering machine message, which sounded like words of encouragement and support from B-Girl's boyfriend. You hear his voice as she travels around the city in her car and dances alone in her sun-filled apartment.

## Hasta La Proxima

This film is about love, pure and simple. More precisely, it is love between a man in a firefighter's uniform and a woman in a green slip. This film is extraordinary because you do not have to know a thing about dancing to understand it. Dancers fall, float and fly. Every movement is expressive and intense to the point that no words or props are needed.

## Andout

A disturbed woman lies on a bedroom floor, remembering dancing and diving with a lady in a red dress. Her memories of beautiful scenes filled with light and vibrant colours stand in stark contrast to the very grey and dull reality of her house, her room and the sky. With a heavy box in tow, she puts on her coat and red high-heels and makes a hasty exit from her house. After a grueling haul through the mud, she makes her way to cliffs by the seaside, walks out onto the pier, takes her coat off and wraps herself up with some cords. At first I thought she was going to blow herself up but instead, as she plugged in, I realized that she was wrapped in Christmas lights. The last scene shows her shining triumphantly against the night sky.

## briefly

# Beyond Beat Matching

## Trent Radio 92.7 FM: pushing boundaries on an instrument that should have none

### Sensehertz

The turntable has become an instrument. The intent of the turntable's creation was to translate the vinyl medium of recorded sound into something that would reach our ears. Add a mixer, a second deck and the instrument progresses, stretching the variability of the sound, while evolving into active participation found in environments like the modern dance club.

Two turntables can create a continuous stream of music; one record is re-placed by another through a process of 'matching' like sounds, textures and rhythms to create the appearance of a seamless switch from record to record. 'Beat-matching' is one strain of this practice that keeps the club crowd dancing--deceiving their senses into believing that the beat never stops or changes.

Where there is no imperative to "make" people dance, two-turntables can work together in an infinite variety of ways. The instrumentalist can weave together diverse elements into a multiplicity of streams working in continuums of similitude or abstract contrasts. Cultures can blend together as easily as genres of music. Picture Claude Debussy together with Dogun tribal chants Jojouka rhythms filling out the bottom and techno textures in the sky above them.

Beyond Beat-Matching is an artists' space to make connections while transmitting live over the airwaves. Tune in to this special event this Sunday, March 28 between noon and 9 pm. After the performances listeners will be treated to sounds from the film *Scratch*, as well some contemporary works by turntablists of all variety.



An image from *Burst* (directed by Reynir Lyngdal; choreographed by Katrin Hall) in which a couple fight over a burst water pipe in their bedroom.

## Last week to vote for Hot Profs!



Hey you filthy little degenerates, there's still time to cast your votes for the second annual Hot Profs of Trent Awards!!! Send Raunchy your vote by March 6. (Yes, even the tardy ones can now send in their ballots).

Which teacher makes you dreamy and creamy? Who would you do even without getting the A? Which prof inspires you to write great essays because you think you may actually have a chance? Send in your votes for your sexiest male and female Hot Profs of Trent Awards to [raunchylove@hotmail.com](mailto:raunchylove@hotmail.com). Awards will be announced next week.



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