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THE THOUGHT CARD

JAW-DROPPING THEATRICAL PERFORMANCES I LOVED IN APRIL 2017

From contemporary ballet to the circus, there were lots of theatrical performances to check out in New York City in April. In case you didn't get a chance to see these productions, here's what you missed.

Theatrical Performances You Missed in April 2017

Cuisine & Confessions at NYU Skirball and Ballet Hispánico at The Joyce Theatre were two phenomenal shows. These theatrical performances celebrated circus art and contemporary dance. They also embraced cultural identity and reminded us to cherish our childhood memories.

Ballet Hispánico: Three Voices, One Stage

From April 18-23, the New York 2017 Season of **Ballet Hispánico** premiered at The Joyce Theater. The show was sold out on opening night! The audience was diverse and ethnicities from around the world were in attendance.

Featuring three Latina choreographers, Ballet Hispánico explored the choreographer's mind. These theatrical performances did not stick to narrow interpretations of dance and Latino culture. Instead, they broke free from the norm.

Linea Recta

The show opened with *Linea Recta or Straight Line* by Annabelle Lopez Ochoa. Annabelle Lopez Ochoa is a Belgian-Colombian choreographer. This piece blended different dance styles but had an authentic flamenco feel.

The flamenco dancer wore a red bata de cola with a long, ruffled train. The bata de cola was much more than a costume. It added drama and at times it felt like it had a mind of its own.

Photo by Paula Lobo

Throughout this piece, the dancers clapped, stomped and performed intricate acrobatics. Their movements were explosive. I adored the emphasis on angles and complex formations.

Con Brazos Abiertos

Photo by Paula Lobo

The second work, *Con Brazos Abiertos* or *With Open Arms* by Michelle Manzanales was breathtaking. This world premiere told a story of a Mexican-American girl growing up with two distinct cultures in Houston, Texas.

Cheech & Chong's voice-over said it perfectly, "You gotta be more Mexican than the Mexicans and more American than the Americans, both at the same time. It's exhausting."

Photo by Paula Lobo

Throughout the performance, we follow her epic journey. At times she sticks out like a sore thumb despite wanting to fit in. As she finds a balance between her two worlds, she embraces her identity. *Con Brazos Abiertos* received a standing ovation. Bravo!

Photo by Paula Lobo

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The last work was *3. Catorce Dieciséis* or *Pi* by Tania Pérez-Salas. This Mexican contemporary dance looked different from the rest. It was somber and had sharp movements. It did not follow the music. Instead, it celebrated the random circulatory movements of our lives.

Photo by Paula Lobo