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BALLET HISPANICO PROGRAM B

April 27, 2014

Program B of Ballet Hispanico's run at the Joyce Theatre is a solid display of the company's wide spectrum of movement from sexy to whimsical. Even with the long running time of two hours (including two intermissions), the evening never runs stale. Each piece is vibrant and diverse, showcasing the talented dancers and choreographers that the company commissions.

Inspired by the name Maria, Annabelle Lopez Ochoa's Mad'moiselle is sleek and sexy. A dark color scheme permeates the look of the piece, with dramatic pops of bright red occurring throughout. Bright red wigs and incredibly high heels give the piece a high-fashion feel, while the movement grounded it in the modern world. The vitality in this high energy piece transfers into the following dance, Hogar, choreographed by artistic director Eduardo Vilaro.

Hogar, an introspective piece, begins with a strong solo by dancer Jamal Rashann Callender. The emotion he achieves within his solo set the stage for a powerful conclusion, carrying the feeling and strength from his movement onward. Another section in this piece included four men manipulating a female dancer, clad in a beautiful long skirt. She is carried, dragged, and spun, with sweeping motion so fluid and mesmerizing that it becomes ethereal.

The world premiere of El Beso, choreographed by Spain native Gustavo Ramirez Sansano closed the evening. Set to classic Spanish Zarzuela music, the dance explores the meaning of a kiss. A larger than life set designed by Luis Crespo and costumes by Venezuelan fashion designer Angel Sanchez add to the fanciful world built through the fast paced, and well calibrated movement. It was a mischievous exploration of kisses, where the audience audibly "aw'd" as the dancers gave each other tiny pecks in time with the driving music. A fun ending to a very solid night of dance, Program B reminds us once again of Ballet Hispanico's charm and prowess.

EYE ON THE ARTS, NY -- Annie Woller