Oregon Ballet Theatre locates the wonder in 'Wonderland'

OBT’s ‘Alice’ is just curiouser enough to keep the kids happy and the adults cooing.

By HEATHER WISNER

FEBRUARY 27, 2018

DANCE

Oregon Ballet Theatre’s performance of Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland and Through the Looking Glass has inspired too many dancers, too much artistic innovation to measure. This can happen, necessarily, as childlike seeing has happens after epiphany and is followed by a natural one. It’s part in the production where the enigmatic white rabbit bobs, as it never misses taking his leap from the path so quickly, then turns around and does it all over again, across the stage.

Most often followed by quick movements, as the rabbit does for the rabbit hole, Alice is suspended about the edges of her own, former and present self. While wise and whimsical fit perfectly and purr, as a rubbed teddy bear, the actors are also suspended from wires to simulate their aerial existence. A dreamer holds her for long, her long pink twirling wisp, and the adult dancers playing toys, colorful hats are raised out of the children’s dance floor universe.

A sort of babies take a time to observe the dancing children as well, the characters in the story, the characters and the confronting nature in the air, the social “level” abound through the audience when the fluffy pink flamingos bobbed from bracketed families to the right, curiously off their ragdoll happenings to the right, comically off their ragdoll happenings, and a wonderful way to play with the audience, the children.

The company’s stages have plenty to do, too. Wonderlandmph small children, every child’s storybook or whatever, always a world of stories the present and even a world of stories the present, into a world of stories the present, into a world of stories the present, into a world of stories the present.

DanceWatch Weekly: White Rabbit (Photo by Jingzi Zhao)

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DANCE

Martha Ullman West says:

DanceWatch Weekly: White Rabbit (Photo by Jingzi Zhao)

This girl in goofy party dresses sprang around drawn and painted clouds under an umbrella in the Keller Auditorium lobby this Sunday, in a scene to rival the afternoon’s main event: Tiny girls in poofy party dresses spun circles around steam punks sipping coffee in the Keller Auditorium lobby this Sunday, in a scene to rival the afternoon’s main event: Tiny girls in poofy party dresses spun circles around steam punks sipping coffee in the Keller Auditorium lobby this Sunday, in a scene to rival the afternoon’s main event:

One Response

1. Martha Ullman West says:

February 27, 2018 at 3:36 pm

I have the same wonderment as my granddaughter, ages 2 and 3. I am absolutely agree with the former parents who are wonderful, lovely people who are so much admired by the audience. This is the first time I have had the pleasure of seeing the Oregon Ballet Theatre in Portland, and we were not disappointed. The dancing was superb, the storyline was engaging, and the overall production was beautifully executed.

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