



December 9, 2009

Top 10 Dance

By Volume: 29, Number: 15

By Glenn Sumi

Decade in review

Sometimes words aren't enough. That's when dance steps in, making us see bodies and space anew and moving our souls and spirit.

1. Reading, Mercy And The Artificial Nigger (Bill T. Jones/Harbourfront Centre, March 2004)

Adapting a Flannery O'Connor story and playing around with race and gender, American master Jones (himself narrating) delivered an unforgettable two-part dance sermon on themes of justice and freedom.

2. Mozart Dances (Luminato/MacMillan Theatre, June 2008)

One-time enfant terrible Mark Morris and his company launched Luminato's dance program with three full-length works demonstrating what world-class modern dance looks like.

3. To Be Straight With You (DV8 Physical Theatre/World Stage, December 2009)

Homophobia is alive and thriving in England, much of it spurred on by culture and religion. Lloyd Newson based this piece on dozens of interviews, physicalizing hate and confusion but leaving room for moments of hope and reconciliation.

4. Kaash (Harbourfront Centre, November 2003)

London-based Akram Khan fused Eastern and Western dance vocabulary in this piece that had the weight and power of myth.

5. Peggy Baker

Growing older has never looked more thrilling, thanks to Baker, who continued to reinvent herself this decade in her own pieces (*Krishna's Mouth*) and collaborations with choreographers like Doug Varone, Sarah Chase, Denise Clarke, dancer Rex Harrington, musician Andrew Burashko and actor Michael Healey.