Review: The Battery Dance Festival Evokes Courtship Rituals Amid Flying Hats

By BRITTAN BURKE  AUG. 10, 2015

The Battery Dance Festival, presented by the Battery Dance Company in Lower Manhattan for 34 years, has become known for its international roster. This year artists from India, Norway and Poland are among those appearing along the Hudson River — routinely backed by stunning, if blinding, sunsets — at Robert F. Wagner Jr. Park in Battery Park City.

Tuesday brought the festival’s first-ever South American guests, with the electrifying New York debut of the troupe Sankofa Danza from Medellin, Colombia. It shared an evening of Colombian dance with Patarilo Pinta’o Dance Company, a New York troupe founded in Germany by the Limón Dance Company soloist and Pina Bausch moonlighter Daniel Petecua Sotra.

DANCE

August 11, 2015

NYC’s Battery Dance Festival Kicks Off This Weekend

Battery Dance Festival is one of the few gatherings that can unite world dance as well as NYC companies. Highlighted by choreographer Jonathan Binstock, it features the Fringe New York Festival of Indian Dance, as well as groups from Colombia, Italy, Jamaica and South Carolina.

The Battery Dance Festival’s Western and Eastern performances include the Bhangra dance of Punjab and the Bangalore step dance of South India. "It’s a great way to experience different cultures through dance," said co-founder Jennifer Muller.

The dance company’s programs include "The Walk," a new work by Muller, and "The Mirror," a solo by Muller and "The World," a piece by Muller and "Dance," a piece by Muller.

The Battery Dance Festival, which runs from Aug. 15 to 17, offers a panoply of world dance on an outdoor stage with panoramic views of New York harbor. On Monday night the Polish Dance Theater makes its American debut with Takashi Morita’s "1000 Colors" and "It’s Already Dark," in which Ewa Wyszkowska, the company’s director, depicts a symbolic contrast between life and death. (It’s inspired by Ignacy Brzozowski, the film director’s own experience of the Holocaust.) Embracing Colón's "Moonman," the company will present "Moon," a piece by Muller and "Dance," a piece by Muller.

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