

Nijinsky's life used as metaphor for turbulence of 20th century

BY ROBERT REID
RECORD STAFF

What happens when the dance abandons the dancer? Madness. Or so goes the story of Vaslav Nijinsky.

Three-Legged Horse, the multicultural, multimedia, multidisciplinary presentation of MT Space, uses the biographical contours of the legendary Russian dancer's life as a metaphor for multiple dialectical themes — desire and jealousy, love and betrayal, creativity and madness, identity and alienation.

In short, Three-Legged Horse transforms the life of one of the 20th century's great artists into a symbol of that century's turbulence.

And all within the confines of an hour with minimal set and props and with a cast of four in a highly stylized, self-consciously theatrical production.

Directed by Majdi Bou-Matar, the production uses music, song, word and dance, along with lighting and projected images, to tell the story of Nijinsky's life as emblematic of the last century.

The actors are Nicholas Cumming as Nijinsky, Carolina Miranda as Nijinsky's wife Romola de Pulszky and Graham Brown as Sergei Diaghilev, the famous impresario of the Russian Ballet and, for a time, Nijinsky's lover.

The cast is rounded out by classical violinist Tatiana Kostour, who roves throughout the auditorium, welcoming audience members, before becoming an integral part of the production.

Kostour's live performance, featuring selections from Igor Stravinsky among other 20th-century composers, is complemented by a soundscape of recorded music.

Appropriately, much of the story is told through dance and dramatic movement, with the aid of a few props such as folding chairs, a flashlight (used very effectively) and umbrellas, the latter of which are both props and set components.

There's little acting in the conventional sense of the word, since the actors are more dramatic symbols than characters.



Graham Brown (left), Nicholas Cumming and Carolina Miranda appear in the play Three-Legged Horse, which was staged at Kitchener's Registry Theatre this week.

Similarly, the script, under the care of dramaturge Jasminka Klacar, is minimalist in keeping with the production.

Artists who emigrate to other countries face a double-edged sword.

Artists from elsewhere tend to be dismissed or ignored because their new country fails to recognize their credentials.

The other edge is just as sharp.

Even when new artists are recognized, they tend to be marginalized because their new country fails to see beyond ethnicity.

MT Space confronts this sword head-on by presenting multicultural

artistic expression in all its myriad forms. With Three-Legged Horse, MT Space accomplishes its artistic call-arms with innovative panache.

rreid@therecord.com

STAGE

What: **Three-Legged Horse**
Where: **Studio 180, Hagey Hall, University of Waterloo**
Day: **May 26, 27**
Time: **8 p.m.**
Cost: **\$15 adults, \$12.50 students, seniors**
Phone: **578-1570**

RECORDINGS

Original bluegrass meets old-time country

JOHN REISCHMAN & THE JAYBIRDS
THE ROAD WEST
(CORVUS RECORDS)

Think of John Reischman and The Jaybirds as Canada's answer to Alison Krauss and Union Station.

The Road West is the West Coast quintet's third album following the Juno-nominated Field Guide and, like its predecessor, it's a delight from start to finish, straddling bluegrass and old-time country.

Most of the album's 16 tracks are original songs and tunes composed by band members, whether it's Reischman on mandolin, Jim Nunally on guitar, Nick Hornbuckle on five-string banjo, Greg Spatz on fiddle or Trisha Gagnon on bass. Gagnon handles lead vocals.

LE VENT DU NORD
LES AMANTS DU SAINT-LAURENT
(BOREALIS)

As anyone who caught them at last summer's Hillside Festival will attest, Le Vent du Nord is one of the most exciting traditional ensembles in Canada. The Juno-winning Québécois folk quartet has released another infectious album.

Les amants du Saint-Laurent features Simon Beaudry on guitar and vocals, Benoit Bourque on accordion, bones, mandolin and vocals, Nicolas Boulerice on hurdy gurdy, piano, bodhran, accordion and vocals and Olivier Demers on fiddle, guitar, foot-



ROBERT REID

tapping and vocals. The 13 tracks encompass work songs, romantic waltzes, rousing dance tunes, tender ballads, humorous ditties and groovy laments — the music of the Québécois.

MEM SHANNON
I'M FROM PHUNKVILLE
(NORTHERNBLUES MUSIC)

I don't know how big Mem Shannon is, but he sings and plays guitar like a big man.

I'm from Phunkville is the New Orleans bluesman's fifth album and first in four years. Perhaps because of his 15 years behind the wheel of a taxi in the French Quarter, Shannon plays the blues straight up, with chasers of funk, soul, country, R&B, jazz and rock 'n' roll on the side.

RUSSELL MARSLAND
DIG DEEP
(BUG MUSIC)

Veteran West Coast guitar ace Russell Marsland took the opportunity of his first album to dig deep into the rich

soil of the blues. Equipped with a big, deep baritone and lightning-quick fingers, Marsland proves on Dig Deep he has the tools to excavate rural, acoustic and urban, electric blues traditions with equal dexterity.

JOHNNY REID
BORN TO ROLL
(OPEN ROAD/UNIVERSAL)

The roots of country music extend back to the ancient folk ballads of Scotland and Ireland.

So why shouldn't a lad from Glasgow, by way of Brampton, Ont., make it in Nashville? Johnny Reid is out to make believers out of skeptics.

His debut album, Born to Roll, is a country hatchback driven by a high-octane pop engine and it should appeal to listeners who can't distinguish authentic country music from pop with attitude.

BARBARA CARROLL
LIVE AT BIRDLAND
(HARBINGER RECORDS)

Live at Birdland takes jazz lovers inside the Oak Room of New York City's legendary Algonquin Hotel.

With Barbara Carroll at the piano and handling vocals, accompanied by Jay Leunhart on bass and Joe Cocuzzo on drums, listeners are treated to such standards as Harold Arlen's Don't Like Goodbyes, Cole Porter's You'd Be So Nice To Come Home To and Stephen Sondheim's Old Friends.

rreid@therecord.com

"THUMBS UP."
ROGER EBERT, EBERT & ROEPER

SAHARA

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VIOLENCE

SaharaMovie.com

RON JAMES

"★★★★ Utterly Brilliant"
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- Toronto Star
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- Victoria Times
"explosively funny"
- Halifax Herald

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CINEMA Showtimes

CAMBRIDGE CENTRE 740-3456

Robots (G)
Sat. & Sun. 1:30

A Lot Like Love (PG)
Sat. & Sun. 12:50, 3:45, 7:00, 9:40; Mon-Thurs. 7:00, 9:40

Interpreter, The (PG)
Sat. & Sun. 12:30, 3:30, 6:50, 9:50; Mon, Wed. & Thurs. 6:50, 9:50; Tues. 1:00, 6:50, 9:50

Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, The (PG)
Sat. & Sun. 1:10, 3:55, 7:05, 9:55; Mon-Thurs. 7:05, 9:55

XXX: State of the Union (PG)
Sat. & Sun. 1:40, 4:05, 6:55, 9:30; Mon-Thurs. 6:55, 9:30

Kingdom of Heaven (14A)
Sat. & Sun. 12:15, 3:25, 6:40, 10:00; Mon-Thurs. 6:40, 10:00 (no passes)

House of Wax (18A)
Sat. & Sun. 1:20, 4:10, 7:25, 10:10; Mon-Thurs. 7:25, 10:10

Crash (14A)
Sat. & Sun. 1:00, 3:40, 7:10, 10:05; Mon-Thurs. 7:10, 10:05

Sahara (PG)
Sat. & Sun. 12:45, 3:35, 6:30, 9:20; Mon-Thurs. 6:30, 9:20

Amityville Horror, The (14A)
Sat-Sun. 4:00, 7:20, 9:35; Mon-Thurs. 7:20, 9:35

GUELPH BOOKSHELF 821-3311

Boys and Girl from County Clare, The (14A)
Sat. & Wed. 7:00; Sun. & Mon. 9:15; Tues. 12:00 noon

Nobody Knows (G)
Sat. 9:00; Sun-Thurs. 6:30

Cannes Ad Festival 2004 (PG)
Tues. 9:15; Wed. 9:00

Nefeleger Pazir (NR)
Thurs. 7:00 (book reading)

Kandahar (PG)
Thurs. 9:00

MUSTANG DRIVE-IN 824-5431

XXX: State of the Union (PG)
Sat-Sun. Gates open 7:30, show begins 8:40

Guess Who? (PG)
Sat-Sun. Gates open 7:30, show begins 8:40

STONE ROAD MALL 836-5114

Pacific, The (G)
Daily 7:00, 9:20; Sat. & Sun. 2:40

Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous (PG)
Daily 6:30, 9:10; Sat. & Sun. 2:00

Fever Pitch (PG)
Daily 6:40, 9:15; Sat. & Sun. mat. 2:10

Kung Fu Hustle (14A)
Daily 7:10, 9:30; Sat. & Sun. mat. 2:30

Guess Who? (PG)
Daily 6:50, 9:25; Sat. & Sun. mat. 2:20

WOODLAWN RD. 837-3456

Racing Stripes (G)
Sat. & Sun. mat. 2:20

National Treasure (PG)
Daily 9:00

Aviator, The (14A)
Daily 7:30; Sat. & Sun. mat. 2:05

Pooh's Heffalump Movie (G)
Sat. & Sun. mat. 2:00

Are We There Yet? (G)
Sat. & Sun. mat. 2:25

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YOUR WEEKLY ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

EVERY THURSDAY IN YOUR RECORD

Hostage (14A)
Daily 7:10, 9:10

Hitch (PG)
Daily 7:15, 9:25; Sat. & Sun. mat. 2:10

Ice Princess (G)
Daily 7:20; Sat. & Sun. mat. 3:15

Million Dollar Baby (PG)
Daily 6:45, 9:00

Because of Winn Dixie (G)
Sat. & Sun. mat. 2:15

Upside of Anger, The (14A)
Daily 7:05, 9:05

Imperial Rd. 763-9188

Robots (G)
Sat. & Sun. 12:50, 3:50

A Lot Like Love (PG)
Sat. & Sun. 1:10, 4:10, 7:05, 9:45; Mon-Thurs. 7:05, 9:45

Interpreter, The (PG)
Sat. & Sun. 12:45, 3:45, 6:45, 9:40; Mon, Wed. & Thurs. 6:45, 9:40; Tues. 1:00, 6:45, 9:40 (no passes)

XXX: State of the Union (PG)
Sat. & Sun. 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:10; Mon-Thurs. 7:15, 10:10

Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, The (PG)
Sat. & Sun. 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:50; Mon-Thurs. 7:00, 9:50

Kingdom of Heaven (14A)
Sat. & Sun. 12:00, 3:20, 6:40, 10:00 (no passes)

House of Wax (18A)
Sat. & Sun. 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:15; Mon-Thurs. 7:30, 10:15

Sin City (18A)
Daily 6:50, 9:55

Sahara (PG)
Sat. & Sun. 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30; Mon-Thurs. 6:30, 9:30

Amityville Horror, The (14A)
Sat-Sun. 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10:05; Mon-Thurs. 7:20, 10:05

Crash (14A)
Sat. & Sun. 12:35, 3:35, 6:35, 9:35; Mon-Thurs. 6:35, 9:35

Monster-in-Law (STC)
Sun. 4:00 (sneak preview)

KITCHENER FAIRWAY CENTRE 893-3456

A Lot Like Love (PG)
Sat. & Sun. 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10:05; Mon-Thurs. 7:20, 10:05

Interpreter, The (PG)
Sat. & Sun. 12:30, 3:40, 6:40, 9:40; Mon-Thurs. 6:40, 9:40

Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, The (PG)
Sat. & Sun. 12:40, 3:20, 7:00, 9:50; Mon-Thurs. 7:00, 9:50

WOODLAWN RD. 837-3456

Movies on the web: www.therecord.com

ONTARIO FILM REVIEW BOARD CLASSIFICATIONS

G Suitable for all
PG Parental guidance advised
14A Persons younger than 14 must be accompanied by an adult
18A Persons younger than 18 must be accompanied by an adult
R Restricted to persons 18 or older

Crash (14A)
Sat-Sun. 1:00, 4:20, 7:05, 9:40; Mon-Thurs. 4:20, 7:05, 9:40

Kingdom of Heaven (14A)
Sat-Sun. 12:00, 12:45, 3:20, 4:00, 6:40, 7:20, 10:00, 10:45; Mon-Thurs. 3:20, 4:00, 6:40, 7:20, 10:00, 10:45 (no passes)

Monster-in-Law (STC)
Sun. 4:00 (sneak preview)

WATERLOO PRINCESS TWIN 885-2950

Saint Ralph (PG)
Daily 7:00, 9:15

Sin City (18A)
Sat-Mon. & Thurs. 9:05; Wed. 1:00, 9:05

Kandahar (PG)
Tues. 6:30 (special screening)

PRINCESS 885-2950

Animation Show, The (14A)
Sat. 5:00, 9:20; Sun. 2:15, 7:00

Up and Down (14A)
Sat. 2:40, 7:00; Sun. 9:00; Mon. 7:00

Million Dollar Baby (PG)
Sun. 4:15; Tues. 6:45; Wed. 9:00

Life Aquatic, The (14A)
Mon. 9:20; Tues. 9:25

Open Heart (PG)
Wed. 7:00

Born Into Brothels (14A)
Thurs. 6:45

Downfall (14A)
Thurs. 8:45

CONESTOGA MALL 883-8843

Robots (G)
Sat-Sun. 1:00, 4:00; Tues. 4:00

Amityville Horror, The (14A)
Sat. 12:35, 3:55, 6:35, 9:20; Sun. 12:35, 6:35, 9:20; Mon, Wed. & Thurs. 6:35, 9:20; Tues. 3:55, 6:35, 9:20

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Sun. 4:00 (sneak preview)

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