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mishiDance

Rating: ★★★★★

Brooklyn was full of [dance](#) this weekend as the emerging company [mishiDance](#) presented a diverse lineup of works at the [Actors Fund Arts Center](#). Under the artistic direction of dancer and choreographer Mishi Castroverde, the company is just four years in the making with nearly a dozen dances in its repertoire and 18 dancers at the ready. The program brought Castroverde's choreographic range of style and appreciation of multiple genres to the forefront.

Opening was her 2013 work *Afternoon Interlude* which pins classical [ballet](#) - pas de deux, lifts, grand entrances and exits en pointe included - with grounded, roll to-the-floor, [contemporary dance](#) counterparts. *Ascending and Descending* (2013) picks up the modern dance flare with five female dancers' movements unraveling beneath their lone spotlight. A change of pace comes with *Enamorados* (2013), a flamenco-inspired work set to the Gypsy Kings' "Un Amor" that integrates the token rhythmic stamping as accentuation throughout the largely ensemble framework. Soon, a trio of cream-clad ballerinas in floor-sweeping skirts swirl on for *Trip* (2012).

Without a doubt, the highlight of the first half came in premiere of *H(a)unted*, a piece created in collaboration with the four performing dancers. Male soloist Jonathan Matthews travels through a well-performed raw and emotional journey marked by the changing presence of one of three female dancers. Amanda Salituro - a standout throughout the program - joins Matthews in a nostalgic yet troubling romance. Phoebe Rose Sandford enters to find him at his knees as gestural movements color her slow pace in his direction, conjuring some power over him. Soon he has risen, traveling in circles as Angela Gorman intervenes. Complimenting the build of the musical compilation, their interaction is aggressive. The push-pull vibe evolves to a fragmented, triggered impulse dialogue of contact between them, as he tries to break free.

The second half of the program begins with *Entropy* (2010) - an edgy contemporary ballet which has been selected to be performed in the upcoming [Palm Desert International Dance Festival's](#) 17th Annual Choreography Competition. Following is the sexy *999 Eyes* (2011) with more syncopated movements, pauses, and glares at the audience. One of the largest ensemble works of the program comes in *Effervescent* (2011), which proves a little tight in the space. Once again Salituro's solid technique shines in her solo work within the quartet *Exsanguinate* (2013). That said, in another program highlight, *Añoranza* (2012), soloist Katie Eshbach impresses with her undeniable grace and enviable strong, arched feet and body lines. Closing the program is the light and joyous *Daisy Chains* (2010).

To learn more about mishiDance, visit the company's [website](#) and [facebook page](#).