



Reviews

If one of the propositions of modern dance is that it should be able to convey contemporary crises through abstract movement then you could argue convincingly that with their latest piece, Fearless, Motionhouse have got it right.

Set within a tubular steel framework, two women (Caroline Bridges and Helen Parlor) along with a male dancer (Dave McKenna) pursue all kinds of structures from death to the relationship between a predator and his/her victim.

From an initial pursuit up and down Escher type stairs, always arriving, always departing yet never getting anywhere, these splendid performers work together to perfectly convey panic, distress and exhaustion. All of which finally crumbles into a void.

The action develops into a clear plastic curtained room where chairs and people pop up and down through trap doors. Again, elements of death, possessive greed and despair slowly give way to sheer hilarity as the stage transposes itself into an inflatable floor which eventually absorbs the male, who sinks without protest.

The whole thing, devised by Kevin Finnan, is inspirational and I loved it.

The Birmingham Post

Saturday 17 February 2001

mac Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham

It was danced to a smart, attractive score (at least in its latter stages) and you are likely to find that the experience is a sheer tonic.

The females dispense with gender expectations, swinging the male dancer in difficult movement patterns as though he were weightless. The whole evening was performed with great aplomb, and Mr McKenna with his wonderfully expressive face and spiky hair, allows you to see transparently both sadness and joy. A dancer to look out for.

Richard Edmonds

The Guardian Guide

10-16 February 2001

There are more than 15 common phobias ("extreme or irrational fears") and at least another 15 unusual phobias. So there's plenty of material to fuel Motionhouse's latest phobia-inspired production, *Fearless*, which opens *Moving Parts 2001*, Birmingham's festival of contemporary dance and physical theatre spread over some six weeks. *Fearless* offers the prospect of three performers revealing and confronting phobias as they "launch and hurl themselves across platforms, swing and shimmy on Escher inspired steps, and leap and dive on an inflatable floor, in turbine of extreme physical action". It would seem to portend another high-adrenaline show from this ensemble where it is important for both the audience and performances to keep their nerve.

Thursday 15, Friday 16

The Stage

21st June 2001

