

Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

Never Standing Still

Sarah Elgart · Wednesday, June 12th, 2019

Dance of any kind can be so *serious*, perhaps especially classical ballet. Ballet is so specific, so exacting, so incredibly precise. The line of the leg, the arch of the foot, the number of turns, the height of elevation—its devotion to transcending a mere commoner's issues of gravity and bones is meant to inspire awe, and it does. And take my word for it, it is incredibly demanding for the dancer. You move through pain and seemingly impossible shapes because you are in love with the way it makes you feel. And in your best moments, that feeling can be as exhilarating as flying. Then suddenly you land and realize you are fallible. Alas, once again a mere gravity bound human with miles to go before you get your wings.



Enter Hong Kong Ballet. For its 40th anniversary, it staged a wondrous piece of filmmaking that is as tongue in cheek as it gets while not lacking a whit in precision, or bravado. In fact, it is a veritable feast of exactitude in the areas of color, costumes, architecture, locations, and of course dance. Ballerinas with bright yellow tights dance in multi-colored basketball courts, or in duets with blue suited men wearing yellow shirts and sneakers who break into incredibly lyrical locking when they are not channeling Bruce Lee. Little old ladies with multi-colored wigs grin from ear to ear and mock swim while standing in life preservers, ballerinas “vogue,” and a Chinese dragon makes an appearance. There's even sound effects over the perfectly selected score—a tricked up version of Ravel's “Bolero.”



Never Standing Still is clearly a beautifully orchestrated team effort. All shot in what looks like Miami, fantastically directed by Dean Alexander, with wonderful cinematography by Andrew Strobridge, and perfect choreography by Artistic Director Septime Webre assisted by Luis R. Torres. And the dancers at least *look* like they're having a great time. It's like a delectable sweet treat you can't believe you have the good fortune to eat.

Rather than spoil the surprise I'll say no more except... ***watch it.*** You won't be disappointed.

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