

Novelty vs. Technique

-- A Review on ACDFA Adjudication Concert I

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Wisconsin Union theatre featured ACDFA Adjudication Concert I on March 13, 2003, in which students from different universities in Great Lake region presented their works. In general, I was impressed by the imagination and creativity of the choreography; however, there were still plenty of places for improvement. It is obvious the choreographers worked hard to explore rich elements besides space and movements in their work, for example, props and sound. Both Knox College's *Lounge Ax* and University of Wisconsin-Madison's *The proper Approach* showed interesting movements with foldable chairs. In *Sound of Movement*, Carisa Barreca from Marquette University intended to interpret movements using different sounds, and she succeeded. The bright colored naughty costumes (designed by Barreca) created a light and pleasing atmosphere. Doing each movement, the dancers pronounced its sound as well. The sensation from watching is well matched with the sensation from listening. Despite the novelty, however, many works suffered from sloppy techniques of the dancers. They showed good energy, but not good control. The lack of connection of the body breaks the fluency of movements. In contrast, there are a few nice exceptions. For instance, *The Proper Approach* and Heidi Latsky's *Bound*. In summary, it was interesting to be exposed to these novel ideas explored that evening, yet without being sustained by good techniques, they were more or less like a mansion built on sands.