

Number 41: Orlando Fringe Festival 2004 Special Edition

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Space

Anoikis

Choreography by Elsa Valbuena

With Melissa Pasut, Leah Marke

Blue Venue, Orlando Fringe Festival

I feel everyone should see a little bit of Dance every now and again, even if it's not the most important thing in your aesthetic life. You don't need a full metal Swan Lake, or shell out the big bucks to get stomped to death by Lords of Dance. There are smaller events available, such as this lovely fluid duet set to infrasonic guitar chords. Opening this program is a one woman piece by Pasut, "Untitled Solo". Dressed in a black velvet one piece hot pants outfit, she appears as moving statuary, striking poses reminiscent of the Lourve sculpture galley, and set to the slow, quite music of Peer Gynt Suite #1.

For the remainder of the set, she's joined by Leah Marke, and two musicians, Rick Olson and Alex Pasut. They have the longest, lowest bass I've ever seen, as well as an esoteric collection of odd instruments, some of which appear to be from Toys R Us. The background music is sonorous, droning, and wavers between oriental mysteries and B-movie menace. Against this wall of sounds, the women first dance "Cranes", which as you might hope, sets them up as two tall thin birds, moving slowly on stilt like legs. The final, longest piece "Space (In 4 Movements)" is the highlight of the show. While the music stays in a similar vein, they recostume in slight outfits from the Target lingerie section, and mime the outlines of the small Blue venue, then proceed to fill it with glassy and romantic movements. What does it mean? Oh, there's probably some deeper meaning, but it eludes me. The show is, as it should be, about grace in motions, grace expressed through beautiful bodies set against sound and floor boards.