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DANCE REVIEW

Blurred Dance Festival clearly a winner

Artists from both sides of border enliven festival

BY JANICE STEINBERG, SPECIAL TO THE U-T
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2010 AT 12:01 A.M.

The Blurred Summer Dance Festival packs a lot of dance into one show. The program includes three companies based here, three from Tijuana and several independent artists.

Produced by Patricia Rincon, the festival takes its name and binational focus from her Blurred Borders Dance Festival, held in the spring. And the show, running through tonight at Sushi, offers ample evidence that there's an exciting regional contemporary dance scene.

Tijuana's Lux Boreal, in particular, is poised to gain international renown. The 8-year-old troupe, directed by Angel Arámbula and Henry Torres, has performed in Latin America, New York and Europe, and will go to Australia in 2012.

"Storyboard for a Thriller," a sophisticated spoof of noir detective stories, shows off Lux Boreal's flair for dance-theater and its technical chops — in a stunning bit, Arámbula throws himself from near-stillness into a roundhouse leap.

The dazzle isn't reserved for big, balletic moves; it appears in the tight cohesion with which three seated dancers cross and recross their feet in unison.

"Storyboard," by Mexico City choreographer Magdalena Brezzo, is juicy in the intimacy of Sushi, if unnerving when you're directly in range of a pointed gun .



DANCE---XII Blurred Borders, International Dance Festival---(Mexican company "Subterraneo Contemporary Dance Company." No photo credit.)
SOURCE: Rincon Dance
[rincondance@;pacbell.net]

Blurred Summer Dance Festival

When: 8 p.m. today

Where: Sushi, 390 11th Ave., downtown

Tickets: \$15-\$20

Phone: (619) 235-8466

Also from Tijuana, Subterraneo Contemporary Dance Company does a tense duet by Gregorio Coral, performing with Adriana Coral. He's a powerhouse; his limbs slice the air so sharply you expect to see blood, and she's tiny but ferocious.

Online:sushiart.org

The Minerva Tapia Dance Group's "Borderline Bodies" takes on meaty themes, from drug "mules" to the quest for perfection via plastic surgery. It's too much for a 13-minute piece, but there's an inventive segment involving nude manikins.

Among the San Diego groups, somebodies dance theater provides a sensual delight in "Grit." Kyle Sorensensen and Gina Bolles Sorensen squiggle and skid across a bed of sand with such focus, you almost feel the friction against your own body. And the surprise ending ... aah!

Peter Kalivas' PGK Project delivers a taut, combative duet by Megan R. Jenkins and Justin L. Viernes, both excellent.

There's a swell moment in Rincon's "Tres e Quatro," when Keely Campbell bursts onstage in a geometric print dress and livens up a tedious trio. But phrases repeat too often, resulting in a shortage of movement ideas.

Janice Steinberg is a freelance arts writer.

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