

NEW SHAPE-SHIFTERS ON THE BLOCK

[HOT - Hip Hop Showcase](#)

Facilitated by Jonny 4Higher

at The Auckland Performing Arts Centre: TAPAC, Auckland

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Reviewed by Linda Ashley, 10 Oct 2009

At the start of the film that opens Posue Dance Company's *Jumpers* we are told that hip hop has become a global counter culture. Who could argue? As counter cultures go, *Hot* reveals a certain state of maturity of what was once an alternative - disliked by some because of its overt gangsta associations. This show is not at all threatening; quite the opposite: it is truly delightful and engaging.

Five years down the track and DZIAH Dance Company (Billie Paea, Wyllis Maihi, Wayde Webster, Anesi Fano and Eric Marsters and others not named) open the show with a sizzling, fluid, technical performance that hits the audience with the force of a meteor. They dance with a dynamic range to be envied and shift from Fred Astaire fluidity to high energy breaking and then suddenly to hilarious comic gags. Contact work is amazing and technically they present some of the tightest work I have seen in the festival.

Shifting gear somewhat, Ghost Dance Crew combine hip hop and urban dance into a silky theatrical and kind of contemporary number. Performers John Purcell Puleitu, Jeremiah Faitala and Sean Papuni are accomplished dancers who can dance an array of moods at the flick of a switch. Again humour plays a part of the rich choreographic landscape and recognisable contemporary and contact moves are blended in seamlessly, making for a hip hop look of quite a different kind.

Ending with a kung fu film in a Chinese takeaway reminded of how important humour is for the dance industry and how difficult it is to do as well as Ghost in their *The Remedy Collection (2008-09)*.

Ending the show from New Caledonia, Posue Dance Company give us their premier **Jumpers**. I was informed that choreographer Soufiane Karim hails from Paris and is employed to run this company. There is a distinct French feel about the 30 minute show brought to a head by a lengthy solo that mixed mime of Marcel Marceau and poppin' around a single spotlight. But the real meat of this show is in the group choreography danced by Soufiane with Kelly Caihe, Thomas Hnaissilin, Yoan Ouchot and Ludovic Wenethem who share an obvious love of their dancing. As a premiere this show possibly

needs some editing in places but it is an involving and again another shade of the global phenomenon which is chameleon like as it takes on the flavvas of wherever it is danced.

Music throughout the evening is the to be expected intricate and well-mixed affair and drives the energy of the show without overpowering the dancers. Actually, it would be pretty impossible for anything to override these dancers. In many ways the hip hop counter culture reminds me of contemporary dance in its globalisation and shape shifting ability. In fact of course modern dance was once a counter culture - but watch out there's a new kid on the block!

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