

ZVI DANCE

Zvi Gotheiner's "Les Noces" is not art about art so much as it is art that has fed on art and grown to greater glory. The dancing in this version of "Les Noces" is magnificent.

These consummately musical dancers are right there with the score in all its demanding glory.
Orla Swift, The News & Observer
(American Dance Festival, '08)

LES NOCES (2006)

Composer: Igor Stravinsky
Costume Design: Rabiah Troncelliti
Lighting Design: Mark London
Number of Dancers: 10
Length of Piece: 24 minutes

Artistic Statement:

With the institution of marriage embroiled in controversy, I was compelled to examine my attitude toward this construct through the artistic process of dance. One of the last remaining rituals in modern times, it confounds me that private acts still resonate so strongly in the public sphere.

In the past, "Les Noces," Igor Stravinsky's seminal work about marriage, has provided fertile ground for the creation of timeless dance: Nijinska, Jiří Kylián, Jerome Robbins, Angelin Preljocaj and Lar Lubovitch to name a few. A common thread that unites these works is their portrayal of society coming together to ensure the consummation of the union between a young couple. When first premiered in 1923 by The Ballet Russes, the score and the dance shocked the Parisian audience with its disharmony, unpredictable rhythms and portrayal of a pre-Christian community in pagan Russia. As our perceptions have changed over time, today these works could be viewed as suggesting the power of the group over the individual, and marriage as a symbol of an orderly society.

I made an effort to use dance as a modality for reflection on old forms within the context of a new reality, emphasizing changing attitudes toward marriage and its contemporary ritualization. My version of "Les Noces" celebrates neither a specific time nor place. I deconstructed the work's narrative, blurred the dichotomous role of bride and groom and eliminated the clergy to democratize the act. The institution of marriage has been evolving over the centuries, changing meaning as well as form. My "Les Noces" glides on that wave of change, suggesting a new perspective to an old ritual.

Zvi Gotheiner
Artistic Director

