

<http://www.theplace.org.uk/7978/resolution-review/sat-8-january.html>

The ardent notes of a tango opened Cote a Cote's *The Sicilian*. Unfortunately, the clumsy adaptation of Molière's play did not convey either emotion or skill. The lack of wit in the text, the hardly-credible and dispassionate love affair and the male actors' uneasiness with the dancing flooded the show. Easy gimmicks, overacting, Manichaeian and simplistic characters, then finally a cringe-making moralistic finale, swamped it further. This was the kind of physical theatre more effective for children than an adult audience. A shame that a bit more of the delicately choreographed and gracefully delivered courtship scene in parallel with the fight between Don Pedro and the lover's friend did not come through. The lights went down as a velvety humming brought to the stage an abstract landscape that was unveiled as the dancer organically swirled, twisted and curled on the floor. Karen'Or Pezard draws a mental map with *Heart of Ice*. The plasticity of the movement and a sense of abandonment situate the piece in the realm of dreams. We accompany the dancer in her elongated *rond de jambes* as if we were witnessing some kind of rebirth. Oblivious to the reason of the sudden moment of self-realization, when the cold lighting contrasts with the dancer's warmth, she captivated us in a magical instant of heart-stopping acting.

Challenging energy levels were demanded in Joss Arnott's *Threshold*, an enduring piece of technical finesse that brought the body to extreme hyper extensions and overarching backs, which place it on Wayne McGregor's arena. Hardcore dance which merges violent throwing of limbs into the air in sinuous lines, sharp blows against the floor and spasms of hands and head are set against a mad dissonant soundtrack. Such a solid style makes this an unnerving but addictive piece. The energy was fierce and that was enough for me but it remains to be seen if this is not a self-exhausting approach. I look forward to Arnott's next work to find out.

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