Leading Bodies, Stirring Imaginations

C REATING is about more than making something new. It involves a profound and complex visual and spatial effect, a sense of stirring and evoking. The Britten-Pears Festival at the Aldeburgh Festival in England, for example, is a celebration of the arts that draws an audience into the world of the arts. Thinking about my favorite dance moments of the year, I realized that some of the most memorable performances were those in which the choreographers had woven together different elements, making every aspect of a dance feel real (and just interesting), but memorable.

1. William Forsythe's "HONEST ARTIFICIALITY" at the Joyce Theater in October. Forsythe's "HONEST ARTIFICIALITY" is a piece that explores both conventional and unconventional movements, creating a large sense of space, the exploration of a "whole" and how that relates to dance. British dancer performed the Royal Ballet, the National Ballet of Canada, and the Royal Danish Ballet, and in each city he created a different interpretation of the ballet. The piece was innovative and undoubtedly beautiful.

2. A stunning line in theatrical craft was scored by the New York City Ballet's "LEGO LUNGS" of Venice, an adaptation of the novel of the same name in which the movement of the dancers is enhanced by onstage visuals. "LEGO LUNGS" of Venice is a piece that explores the relationship between the movement of the dancers and the visual elements on stage, creating a visually stunning and emotionally engaging performance.

3. In his new solo "MOON PHASES," performed at the Joyce Theater in October, Garth Fagan explored the complexity of musical pieces by David Lang. "MOON PHASES" is a solo performance that explores the relationship between music and movement, creating a visually engaging piece that is both thought-provoking and emotionally resonant.

4. "MACHINES" by Michael Keegan-Dolan, which took place at the Joyce Theater in October, is a choreographed piece that explores the relationship between the human body and technology. The piece is performed by a group of dancers who move in sync with the technological elements on stage, creating a visually stunning and emotionally engaging performance.

5. "THE YEAR IN THE ARTS," which took place at the Joyce Theater in October, is a piece that explores the relationship between the human body and technology. The piece is performed by a group of dancers who move in sync with the technological elements on stage, creating a visually stunning and emotionally engaging performance.

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**Meditative Moves And Dance Distilled**

At the start of each program of work by Garth Fagan Dance comes a quick tutorial in Mr. Fagan’s distinctive style and sensibility – a characteristic of the Joyce Theater that has come to be even more cherished, now that the legendary venue has closed its doors to ballet.

**Orange Peel**

Amidst the throng, Mr. Fagan’s work is presented as a sort of meditative solo, a nod to the concert’s serene, almost mystical atmosphere. The dancers, dressed in vibrant hues of orange and yellow, display an almost ethereal quality as they move in unison, their bodies merging into a single, graceful form.

**Onstage**

The music is a mix of soothing instrumental pieces and haunting vocals, providing a backdrop for the dancers’ fluid movements. The lighting, a mix of warm orange and cool white, enhances the overall mood, creating a sense of both warmth and mystery.

**In Conclusion**

Garth Fagan Dance is a testament to the power of dance, and this program is a fitting finale to the company’s final season at the Joyce. As the curtains close, the audience is left with a sense of wonder and appreciation for the beauty and complexity of movement.
Turning 40, but Still Flying Through the Air Like a Picture of Ease

Gary Bartz has been a part of the New York dance scene for over 30 years. His latest project, "Turning 40," celebrates his milestone birthday with a mix of contemporary and traditional dance elements. The choreography, performed by a variety of artists, including 

Claudia Reisinger,

and

La Rocca,

explores themes of transformation and growth. The show features a diverse cast of dancers, including both established names and emerging talent. The performances are a testament to the enduring appeal of dance as an art form, and how it can continue to evolve and adapt to new influences.