

*L'Alsace*

Tuesday, April 12, 2011

New York Energy

The Big Dance Theater hung its hat up last week at the Filature in Mulhouse for two performances of *Supernatural Wife*, a multimedia piece inspired by the tragedy *Alkestis* by Euripides. At the heart of this story is Alkestis's sacrifice to follow death in order to save her husband King Admetos from hell.

The Big Dance Theater successfully uses a wealth of artistic mediums to bring its audience into the intrigue.

On the stage is a screen with sepia images from a silent film, live music and a soundtrack to raise the tension. The antique chorus is beautifully reinterpreted in a circular arrangement with a few a cappella numbers, rich in harmony and with hints of medieval and Celtic inspirations.

There are moments of pure theater, others of dance, sustained rhythm, inventive direction, video and even magic, all of which have their place in this performance. For instance, we can't resist Héraclès's booming arrival behind the drum kit on the mobile platform.

We feel the energy from this New York company, as well as the incredible talent from all the different modes of artistic expression showcased in this piece. They sing, they dance, they act, all with the same dramatic ease. But more importantly, the Big Dance Theater succeeds in recreating a modern version of the myth, which is but a reflection of the complexity of human relations and a heightened expression of sentiments.

Well-rounded artists, freshness, derision, humor, fantasy and solemnity all contribute to this beautiful, good theater made in the USA.

Frédérique Meichler