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Ballet not up to par

Review

By Suzanne Weber
Register Staff Writer

After viewing Thursday night's performance of the Joffrey II Dancers, it's understandable why Ron Reagan left the Joffrey Ballet to poke fun at his family on a Home Box Office special.

Perhaps the company was simply tired of touring or was just having a bad night but, whatever the case, the performance at George Washington High School auditorium began and ended with serious mistakes and mishaps.

During the first ensemble piece, "The Gardens of Boboli," the principal dancer tripped over her own feet while executing a simple arabesque. And midway through the show, Marlene Kandall fell with such a resounding thud she was unable to return to the stage for the finale.

The Joffrey II Dancers sorely disappointed those members of the audience who expected strict, classical ballet. More of an eclectic company, the dancers performed a series of modern, contemporary, neo-classical and classical pieces.

"The Gardens of Boboli," for example, incorporated more gymnastics and other disciplines than ballet steps. Set to baroque music, the piece had members of the audience fighting yawns and trying to retain consciousness.

Choreographed by Mark Haim, "The Gardens of Boboli" should have remained in Boboli.

Although the company salvaged some of its reputation during the last excerpt, it was hardly worth a standing ovation. Those who rose to their feet should have witnessed the recent appearance of the Ballet of Los Angeles at the Caswell County Civic Center.



(Staff Photo by Doug Koontz)

A dancer performs an arabesque Thursday night. Despite the beauty of this simple step, one reviewer was unimpressed by the overall performance.