



It's been a pleasure Glasgow

February 24, 2011



Collin Heyward in Glasgow, Scotland.
Photo by Fana Tesfagiorgis

So we have just completed our second and final performance here in Glasgow, Scotland and the experience has been just incredible. Sarah, Renaldo, Jackie, Yusaku, Major, Kelly, Lizzy, and I decided to treat ourselves to the nightlife in Glasgow upon our arrival. We all danced the night away at this club called Karbon. Almost every song the DJ played was from an American artist, so we felt right at home dancing and singing (more like belting) to each track. As the night concluded, we helped ourselves to some fish and chips, which were to die for.

The following day, Fana and I walked around the general vicinity and enjoyed the culture and beautiful sites Glasgow has to offer. Shopping is a guilty pleasure of mine and I successfully overcame it as we trekked through a mall. My temporary role as a window shopper sufficed as I witnessed Fana make her purchases. During the latter portion of the day, I found time to complete some homework for school.

We performed in Glasgow's King Theater, which first opened in 1904. The architecture inside and outside the theater is absolutely stunning and really gives you a sense of its historical value. Our main obstacle during our run at the King's Theater was its raked stage. We had the chance to test the stage out during an open rehearsal in which students from the Scottish Ballet school attended. Compromising where we distributed our weight was the key factor in delivering a satisfying performance. The raked stage became more of a mental obstruction than anything else. We all put our fears aside and did what we came here to do – DANCE!

We showcased Program B. Troy Powell's *The External Knot* was first in the program and we had a great run through of the piece both nights. I enjoy performing the piece because it lets you explore almost every kind of emotion. The journey allows you to emit serenity, vulnerability and fearlessness in the course of twenty-six minutes. The next work I performed in this program was Robert Battle's *The Hunt*. Each time I do this piece, it unleashes an animalistic life force that I think is naturally part of our human nature. It takes almost every ounce of my energy when performing it.

We ended the night with Alvin Ailey's masterpiece, *Revelations*. This piece requires such a strong connection to a supreme being that I have to take a moment for myself just to thank Him for this life He has bestowed me with, trials and all. It's such an awesome feeling at the end of *Revelations* knowing that the audience is enlightened spiritually.

The responses from the audiences were phenomenal and we concluded each night with an encore. Now it's time for me to get some rest so I can wake up bright and early for our seven-hour bus ride to Nottingham, England. It's been a pleasure Glasgow.

Until next time,

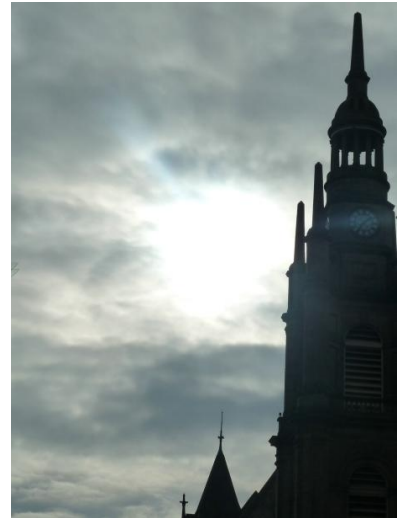
Collin =)



Ailey II's Jacqueline Green.
Photo by Collin Heyward



Man with bagpipes.
Photo by Collin Heyward



One of the few times the sun peeped out from the clouds.
Photo by Collin Heyward



Walking toward the Glasgow Kings Theatre for Rehearsal and view from the stage inside. Photos by Collin Heyward