

Third Stop: Nottingham

March 1, 2011



Collin Heyward.
Photo by Eduardo Patino

Hello readers! The company is currently in Brighton, England. Our previous visit to Nottingham was very delightful. Upon our arrival, Major, Fana, and I used our spare time to roam around the city. We happened to discover an enormous Ferris wheel and our sudden impulses told us to hop on. While waiting patiently in line, we saw our wardrobe supervisor Denise wandering around and beckoned her to join in on the fun. The extravagant attraction gives you a breathtaking bird's eye view of the Nottingham skyline.

After braving the heights of the Ferris wheel, Denise departed and the rest of us headed over to a local mall in search of a venue to eat dinner. In the mall we narrowed our choices down to two restaurants, T.G.I. Fridays and the Flaming Dragon. After listening to our talking stomachs, we unanimously choose to chow down at the Flaming Dragon because it has an "all you can eat buffet." The topic at dinner was life after Ailey II. Who knows what the future will bring? We all agreed to just live in the now and let our futures plan themselves out on their own. As dancers, we want to experience so many different genres and companies and the order in which they happen is a complete mystery. I live for such ambiguity, not knowing where I will end up, but knowing that I will definitely be somewhere.

We had two performances during our stay in Nottingham. Our program was different from the one we showcased in Glasgow. The night included Donald Byrd's *Shards*, Thang Dao's *Echoes*, and Alvin Ailey's *Revelations*. In *Shards*, I play the leading male alongside my female counterpart, Jacqueline Green. When learning the piece, I was told that everything seen in the work happens inside my head. All the dancers represent "shards" of my past and complete my whole being. When performing this role, I try to visualize my own personal relationships with others and how they have either flourished or failed. Either way, I cherish them and their embodiment of how they've created the Collin I am today.

Our second piece in the program is Thang Dao's *Echoes*. I thoroughly enjoy dancing this piece because every step flows effortlessly into the next. The piece takes you on a journey towards hope and allows us to show our unity as a company. We all have our individual tribulations, but it is our bond that helps us dance the next step, dance the next day. The audiences really appreciated this piece and the intimacy it emits.

All in all, we had a successful run at the Nottingham Playhouse and now it's time to share our passion with the locals of Brighton. It's been a bit nippy down here since we're right near the water, so everyone's been trying to keep warm. Cheers to a good run Brighton.

Until next time,
Collin =)



FANA TESFAGIORGIS and MAJOR NESBY excited to ride the Wheel of Nottingham.
Photo by COLLIN HEYWARD



The theater where we performed. Photo by COLLIN HEYWARD



The Wheel of Nottingham, and view from atop the wheel. Photos by COLLIN HEYWARD



A cool orb outside the theater.
Photo by COLLIN HEYWARD