

10 Things

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FANA TEFAGIORGIS. Photo:
EDUARDO PATINO

Nottingham was beautiful. As soon as we got there, a few of us dropped off our bags and let the wandering begin. That's usually what happens at every city on our international tours. Living on the road can be overwhelming at times, especially on a different continent. Even with all the incredible sights and welcoming people, being away from home for long periods of time can be hard. I've found it helps me to develop habits or patterns in every location—usual streets, favorite coffee shops, etc. to help things to feel more familiar.

We wound up in Market Square and rode on the Wheel of Nottingham. We could see the entire city from the top! There were countless places to shop, eat, and, of course, party.

At the Nottingham Playhouse, we performed Donald Byrd's *Shards*, Thang Dao's *Echoes*, and Alvin Ailey's *Revelations*. I love all of the works in our last program too, but I realized that I love this program because all three pieces include the entire company. The way we dance as individuals has a huge impact on a work's overall energy in the same way that individual pieces of a puzzle are all vital in the complete picture. By the end of the performance, that energy feels so unified.

I broke it down a bit in my head and came up with "10 Things I LOVE About Group Works":

1. "Circling up" before the curtain opens
2. Feeling/seeing/helping the story line of the ballet develop from beginning to end
3. Everyone's commitment and clarity in executing every step
4. Counts, rhythm, or any other connection to the music that ensures we're all together
5. Moments of unison, moments of disunion, and how different those moments feel
6. Really looking around the stage and making real connections with others
7. Watching other sections from the wings and getting excited and inspired when someone "hits the step"
8. The pressure of the "quick change"
9. The push that your peers can give you to go a little further
10. Trying to pass down the bows when you can't hear, breathe, or move your lips (lol)

Thanks for a great time Nottingham! Brighton, here we come!



The Wheel of Nottingham. Photo by FANA TESFAGIORGIS



The view from the ferris wheel. Photo by FANA TESFAGIORGIS



Footballer Brian Clough. Photo by FANA TESFAGIORGIS



A shopping area in Nottingham. Photo by FANA TESFAGIORGIS