

dancematters



1. Deborah Jowitt. 2. Wendy Perron. 3. Jowitt and Douglas Dunn, wearing the shoes of Edwin Denby. 4. Susan Jaffe and Kate Lydon. 5. ABT's Irina Dvorozenko as the *Dying Swan*. 6. Judith Jamison. 7. Masazumi Chaya and Robert Battle. 8. Renee Jaworski and Otis Cook of Pilobolus. 9. Irina Kolpakova. 10. Matthew Rushing performing *A Song for You*. 11. Theresa Ruth Howard and Khara Hanlon. 12. Itamar Kubovy, Robby Barnett, and Michael Tracy of Pilobolus. 13. Norton Owen and Karen Hildebrand. 14. Judith Jamison and Deborah Jowitt. 15. Renee Robinson, Hope Boykin and Amos J. Machanic Jr. of Ailey.

Dance Magazine Awards

At the Ailey Citigroup Theater last November, *Dance Magazine* honored four dance icons for their enormous gifts to the community: **Deborah Jowitt**, **Pilobolus**, **Irina Kolpakova**, and **Matthew Rushing**.

Deborah Jowitt opened the show with an excerpt from her *Body (in) Print*, paying homage to those who came before her in both speech and movement. She tenderly conceded that “it is given to very few to be utterly original.” Douglas Dunn, literally wearing the shoes of Edwin Denby, sprinkled his speech with quotes from her huge body of work and presented her with the award. Jowitt recalled the first *Dance Magazine* she read in February 1954, with an article by Balanchine and another about Janet Collins. She said she couldn’t have imagined writing for it someday. She also read Jerome Robbins’ hilarious account of the 1956 DM Awards—a race for sanctity between Martha Graham and Agnes de Mille.

Renee Jaworski and Otis Cook of Pilobolus Dance Theatre then danced a shortened version of the spiraling, creeping, super-entwined *Symbiosis*. American Dance Festival director Charles Reinhart talked about the ’60s and ’70s, when, at Dartmouth College, Pilobolus was formed. He invoked the company’s collaborative spirit and praised its late cofounder Jonathan Wolken. Current co-directors Robby Barnett and Michael Tracy and executive director Itamar Kubovy accepted the award, thanking the countless individuals and organizations

that made big and small contributions to Pilobolus (including “caffeine, alcohol, and marijuana,” without which, according to Barnett, they would’ve “made less and enjoyed it less”).

American Ballet Theatre’s Irina Dvorozenko performed the tragic *Dying Swan* solo. In a beautiful, custom-made tutu adorned with feathers, she transported the audience with her delicacy and desperation. Former ABT star Susan Jaffe expressed her passion for ballet mistress Irina Kolpakova, recalling watching her on tape for the first time with Mikhail Baryshnikov. Kolpakova then delighted the audience with her emphatic gesturing and sweet insistences, thanking those who helped her thrive in America.

Finally, Matthew Rushing gave a heartfelt rendition of Ailey’s *A Song for You*, to rapturous applause. Ailey director Judith Jamison, in her signature convivial manner, remembered the “slender, unassuming kid” that the whole building was buzzing about the first day Rushing came to take company class. She praised his honesty and faith, saying that he “embodies lineage, artistry, and integrity.” Rushing, choked up, admitted to the audience that his transition to rehearsal director and guest artist was both scary and exciting. He remembered going to the library as a student and searching through old *Dance Magazines* to find any mention of Alvin Ailey. He thanked his mentors and humbly acknowledged that his gift was about—and came from—something larger than himself. —Kina Poon