

Diversity highlights the Koresh Come Together Dance Festival

August 20, 2017 | Lewis J. Whittington | Lew's Danceland



Koresh Dance Company's artistic director, Roni Koresh launched The Come Together Dance Festival four years ago as an extension of the dance showcases he has hosted at the company's studios over the years, that has evolved into an ever-expansive collective of regional dance. Despite the success of the first three festivals, Roni and his brother Alon (company executive director) had to skip staging it last year due to lack of funding. They have since regrouped and the 4th annual festival re-convened this week with over 40 regional and national companies performing over five nights of performances and events at the Suzanne Roberts Theatre on Broad Street in Philadelphia. Featuring a deep field in a wide unlimited range of established dance styles and some not so fused disciplines, it is a panoramic view of where dance in America is in ethnic diversity, independent voices and choreographic range. As PHILADANCO director, Joan Myers Brown noted at the last festival discussion of company

artistic directors, Come Together does indeed “Look like America.” Roni and Alon kicked things off on August 16 with a festival champagne toast with the audience in the theater lobby minutes before the curtain went up on opening night. Here are a few capsule review highlights of the first two nights of this year’s festival...

Festival Night One – August 16th

Kun-Yang Lin/Dancers | *Santuario* (excerpts) Kun-Yang Lin/Dancers showed excerpts of *Santuario* and this meditative and thought-provoking work honoring the victims of the Pulse Nightclub shootings, premiered last spring and continues to become more eloquent and polished as it deals with very weighty social themes. Lin’s vivid choreographic artistry is both elegiac and a powerful dance polemic.

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