

Origin.
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THE SHAPES TIME MAKES:

A DEEPER LOOK INTO DOMINIC
WALSH DANCE THEATRE'S TIME
OUT OF LINE

ORIGIN. COLUMNIST | Dominic Walsh



Photo by Frank Atura

DOMINIC Following up from the inaugural issue, we left off at our upcoming performances at The Hobby Center for the Performing Arts with my newest creation *Time Out of Line*.

Time Out of Line takes an abstract look at a non-sequential timeline, incorporating a live physical painting as the dancers leave behind traces from their journey. Our company had five performances in Sarasota, FL, and three here in Houston. We started in the studio by taping ten foot squares of paper to the floor. From there we explored with a variety of pre-selected primary colors that had an interesting relationship to each other as they either fused or intersected, or broke apart.

ADDIE Wait. Let me interrupt. I was really interested in the differences in the circle that was made by Domenico Luciano on one panel of paper at the two performances I saw. Which came first for you in creating this, the movement, or the shapes you wanted to make with the paint on the paper?

DOMINIC When Nicola, my collaborator for this project, and I started to explore with movement, some was very effective, such as the perfect circles created by a *rond de jambe* (arc of the leg) with the narrow edge of a pointe shoe, or spreading of the toes with bare feet during a long or circular stroke. I discovered more often than not that too many steps didn't create the intended shape, in the intended space. So, I was surprised by how much structure was needed to deliver a thought-provoking aesthetic on stage.

ADDIE It hasn't occurred to me until just now that the circle could be yet another metaphor for a non-sequential timeline. Was that on purpose, or do you just like circles?

DOMINIC What comes to mind is the idea that time is more a loop than a line. We loop back to distant memories that are more vivid than some occurrence from that last hour.



Photos by Elaine Mesker-Garcia & Addie Tsai

ADDIE That's really interesting. When I've studied tango, we talk a lot about circular shapes, both in the grounding energy of your body in space, and also the shapes of the steps themselves, which I see a lot when I watch balletic movement as well. And in poetry, we use this term called ring structure, which is a technique a poet uses when she ends a poem at the same moment or incident in time that the poem began.

DOMINIC As someone who deciphers and disseminates movement, I am interested in working smart, not hard, and with effortless energies such as centrifugal force, natural opposition and spirals, which all human existence revolves around. So, the circle used in *Time out of line* not only speaks to the metaphor of sequential time, but to kinesthetic principles of movement I'm interested in.

ADDIE It was really exciting to see the pieces after the show, and that members of the audience could even purchase whole panels, or pieces of panels of artwork that were made live. Is that still going on?

DOMINIC Yep. Pieces of the art that were created during *Time Out of Line* can be purchased by calling DWDT at 713.652.DWDT (3938).



Photo by Frank Atura



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