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2004

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

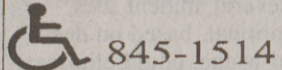
7:00 PM

Rudder Theatre

Admission is free

Tickets available at MSC Box Office

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CRITIC'S CORNER

The Moscow Festival Ballet

“Cinderella”

Presented by MSC OPAS

The average college-age audience has probably seen half a dozen versions of “Cinderella” in its lifetime. Skeptics of The Moscow Festival Ballet’s take on Hans Christian Anderson’s classic will find the ballet to be unlike any of these versions. The ballet, which was shown in Aggieland last weekend by MSC OPAS, is without singing mice, special effects or even many props for that matter. The presentation, directed by Sergei Radchenko, carried itself solely on the performances of its amazingly talented cast.

The play is divided into three acts with 60 dancers gliding through each of their designated roles. The characters are flawless in their maneuvers; they seem to transcend the boundaries of gravity and the restrictions of human flexibility. Each of the dancers has his own enchanting poise, perfect makeup and refined body. These traits combine to make the dancers immaculate in their appearance. Their stunning costumes have the color, sparkle and dynamism that would put an 1980s glam-rock band to shame any day. The splendor and elegance of the performances makes one wonder when classical ballet fell by the wayside and Britney Spears’ “bumpin’ and grindin’” became the thing to see.

The chemistry between Cinderella and the prince was unlike that found in sticky romantic-comedies that Hollywood makes so readily available. The beauty and grace of the couple’s coordinated movements were so fluid and blossomed so effortlessly on the stage that no modern-day romantic could help but envy them.

The ballet also featured the unconventional aspect of humor. The cast is augmented by the presence of a court jester who is the butt of an occasional joke. The evil stepmother and stepsisters are also graceful in their movements on the stage, but their routine slip-ups and bickering are comedic and light-hearted and add to the appeal of the presentation.

The Moscow Festival Ballet’s rendition of “Cinderella” was a charming show that is a perfect getaway from the regular late-night Northgate scene. Having a live orchestra playing along with



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The prince (above), performed by Mikhail Bessmertny, Valeri Shumilov, Vasily Ameryanov and Sergei Kaulov leaps across the stage during the second showing of the play Sunday afternoon in Rudder Auditorium.

the ballet would have made the experience enhanced, because the occasional tapping of the dancer’s shoes could be heard. On the whole, the ballet was a perfect thing to see with a loved one on the weekend before Valentine’s Day.

- Nishat Fatima

Rush to the box office before tickets sell out! **Save your money and stay at home!**

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The following newspapers will be available FREE to Texas A&M University students during The Collegiate Readership Program Pilot from February 9 - March 5:

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