

A Perfect Launch

By Kate Gilderdale • Stouffville Free Press

By turns witty and profound, visually stunning and heart-wrenching, Motus O's October premiere of *Perspectives* was an outstanding choice to launch the professional dance series at the Lebovic Centre for Arts and Entertainment – Nineteen on the Park.

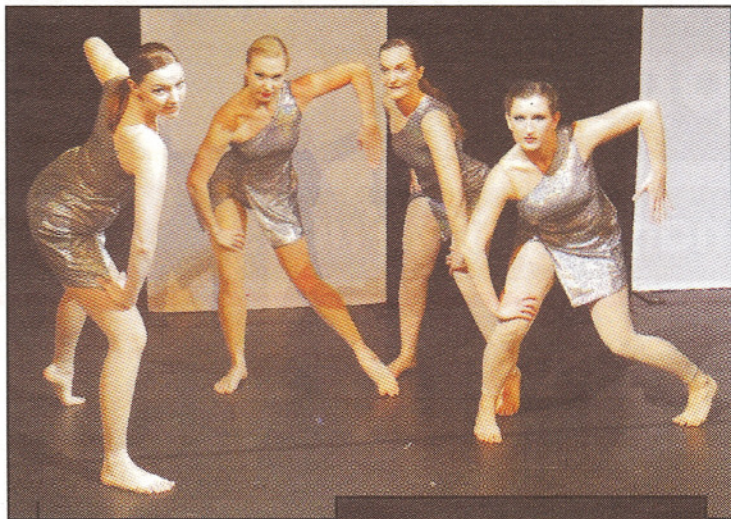
In the almost two decades since its inception, the Stouffville dance collective has lost none of its trademark physical energy, innovative choreography and sheer athleticism. While the performers tackled challenging topics, including the subjugation of women, ecology and the reality of living with Parkinson's, their belief in hope and redemption shone through.

Particularly poignant was *Me, Myself and I*, in which guest artist Judy Hazlett, who was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease 30 years ago, was one of four dancers portraying her own life from childhood to the present. Her grace and poise brought a standing ovation from the audience.

Continuum was a beautiful meditation on the passing of the generational torch from mother to daughter, while *Saira* offered a stark reminder of the horrors women face in patriarchal societies where they are regarded as chattels rather than human beings.

Humour was a recurring motif. James Croker deftly portrayed the tough life of a tree in *Tree Trilogy*, while *Tutu Trapped* provided a hilarious take on a tutu-clad contestant on *So You Think You Can Dance*, Stouffville, who is hijacked by two dancers with a seriously punk attitude and an aversion to sweetness and light.

Fabulous costumes and the excellent integration of video and music made this a night to remember.



Laura Day, Sarah Felschow, Cynthia Croker and Melissa Spence in *Metaphor on the Floor*.



Jack Langenhuizen flips James Croker in *Boyz Toyz*.