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A second serving of 'Men in Dance'

Posted by Melissa Davis

This from Michael Upchurch, who attended Weekend Two of "Men in Dance" in Seattle, and recommends it for dance fans:

"The second weekend is even stronger than Weekend One, with several stunning new pieces on the program. Two come from out of town. Ohio's Bill Wade, director of Inlet Dance Theatre, brought "Doppelganger," originally choreographed for identical twins. Closer to fluid acrobatics than dance, it was filled with improbable balances and cantileverings of limbs and torso, delivered with mirrored intensity by Joshua Brown and Justin Stentz. California choreographer Joshua D. Romero used looser but still taut moves with four marvelous dancers in "Alpha," blurring the lines between masculine competition and gymnastic interdependence.

"On the home front, Olivier Wevers' solo for Andrew Barte, "MORE" (a world premiere), was a serio-comic study of escalating appetite for a particularly colorful T-shirt. Set to Ravel's "Bolero," it put Barte through astonishing pretzel-like maneuvers. Even when contorted to Cirque du Soleil extremes, Barte (or one of his seemingly autonomous limb or digits) would hone in on the steady "Bolero" beat.

"Repeats of work by Seattle choreographers Wade Madsen, Deborah Wolf and, especially, Jason Ohlberg got hugely enthusiastic receptions. There are still tickets available for performances at 2 p.m. Sunday. Grab them while you can." (800-838-3006 or www.brownpapertickets.com).