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David Hughes Dance Company

DANCE

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DAVID HUGHES DANCE COMPANY \*\*\*\*

TRAVERSE THEATRE, EDINBURGH

IN THE not too distant future, the time will come when David Hughes stops dancing - and what a sad day that will be. The man who played the original swan in Matthew Bourne's all-male Swan Lake has a movement style all his own. Watching him dance has a slightly mesmeric effect, but with his 40th birthday looming, he can't go on forever.

Thankfully, Hughes is also shaping up to be a pretty good artistic director. This is only the second outing for his newly formed company, and already it has made great strides. The programme opened with a new work by Hughes himself, Matt's Lost His Groove. The eponymous dancer, Matt Foster was clearly in full possession of his groove, and knew how to use it. Already a competent breakdancer, Foster has picked up some of Hughes' fluid, contemporary style. Together, the two men filled the stage with their presence and, remarkably, a Harley Davidson motorcycle.

The remaining works, Rafael Bonachela's [4:Freeze-Frame] and Tanja Liedtke's Imploded: Une Reverie Romantique, made full use of the entire company. Bonachela seems to be on a mission to fill each minute with as much choreography as possible, refusing to give the dancers even a moments respite.

While Liedtke, formerly of Australian Dance Theatre, has created a dynamic take on Les Sylphides. Punishing for the dancers, but exciting for us, the work proved what a talented, capable yet utterly individual group of performers Hughes has assembled.

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