

Familiar steps, similar journey

By LEIGH WITCHEL

Last Updated: 4:22 AM, February 27, 2010

Posted: 12:40 AM, February 27, 2010

DANCE REVIEW

LAR LUBOVITCH DANCE COMPANY Joyce Theater, 175 Eighth Ave. Through March 7.

For his all-jazz program at the Joyce, Lar Lubovitch sticks to what he does best...The American choreographer, who's made dances for Broadway's "Into the Woods" and the short-lived "The Red Shoes," turns out fluid, balletic moves like water from a spigot...On tap: three works, set to (canned) music by contemporary singer Kurt Elling and two 1963 recordings by John Coltrane and Dave Brubeck.

Through it all, Lubovitch's swirling movements and swelling groups are easy on the eyes [with] simple sets and costumes: dark and smoky for the Elling, vibrant vintage for Brubeck, and workout clothes for the Coltrane.



ERIN BAIANO

Workout clothes are the costumes as the Lar Lubovitch troupe dances to John Coltrane.

Some of the dances get weird: In the Elling number, a woman abruptly leaves her partner and his hand begins to shake uncontrollably, and a couple collapse at the end of the Coltrane like overdosing drug addicts...

The best dancing comes toward the end. Brubeck's "Elementals" quotes Ravel's "Bolero" and gathers pressure for a big finale. Lubovitch cuts loose with jitterbug and Lindy steps -- as do the dancers, in a good-natured dance competition like a street-corner "So You Think You Can Dance..." There's one big virtuoso role in the Brubeck, and Hungarian dancer Attila Joey Csiki, decked out in tomato red, sailed through the steps...

Brian McGinnis has a dark intensity...While Elling sings "Prelude to a Kiss," McGinnis stands motionless, staring at us, with Katarzyna Skarpetowska draped around him. She ends the song with her back to us as McGinnis peels her top down around her shoulders. Then he leans into her neck and gives her a kiss.

Or is it a bite?