

Exploring time and space

UWM dance department's "Winter Dances" revolves around the clock

By Matthew Gillespie

Time was the inspiration for the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee dance performance, "Winter Dances" which was performed this past weekend on the Mainstage theatre. The faculty-choreographed show featured six contemporary works that varied in ballet, modern and jazz styles.

My favorite work of the night came from Andre Tyson. His modern piece, "The Permanence of Goldfish," featured Megan Zintek dancing solo against a large projection screen. This screen featured tantalizing images that accentuated Tyson's athletic choreography executed by Zintek. Zintek's beautiful shaping and flexibility was impeccable to watch. She wore a shiny gold tube top and maroon yoga pants as she collapsed, jived and slid across the stage. As an aquarium of goldfish appeared on the stage's backdrop, Zintek slivered into darkness as the lights came down.

The second work by Andre Tyson, "Organic Algorithms", wasn't as impressive as his "Goldfish" number, but I did enjoy the digital visuals he created for it. The female ensemble of dancers performed Tyson's linear choreography against a backdrop of algebra equations, shifting blocks and a dreamy space odyssey. A comedic moment where one of the dancers, Shauna Opitz, showed fear when she lost her place amongst the other dancers was very funny. Tyson continued to display these comedic surprises throughout the remainder of his work.