

Ballet troupe pulled together in 'Giselle'

On April 5, Ballet Theatre of Toledo provided our community a rare gift. They presented the ballet, *Giselle*, at their spring concert. This production is in stark contrast to the dance competitions with winners and losers and egos abounding. Here, the whole troupe pulled together as a group to tell the story of a young woman in love with a young man she believed returned her love, only to collapse from heartbreak after learning her lover was engaged to another.

What was unique was to see Tricia Sundbeck as Giselle. Yes, she had lovely extensions and joyful allegro leaps, but she was able to go beyond herself and become young Giselle without thought of being a star herself. More remarkable was a corps de ballet with such talented dancers willing to elevate the corps and be subsumed themselves to strengthen the whole theatrical experience, rather than seeking solos for themselves recital style. The emotion created and sustained was memorable and haunting.

These are high school and young college-level students for the most part who have this opportunity to do something bigger than just one dance and, my, how they rose to the occasion.

Toledo has helped to create this level by its support for ballet, and artistic director Nigel Burgoine has given to the community his knowledge of repertory ballet productions. The young people of our community are the beneficiaries.

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