



Silver Circles, RKB dancers Therese Wendler and Francesco LaMacchia, costume by Anna Alisa Belous



Silver Circles, RKB dancer Giorgia Bovo, costumes by Andre Cornelius, Photos by Allison Maggy

Rebecca Kelly Ballet's intimate SoHo loft isn't quite Bryant Park, but on Feb. 11 the eight-member ensemble pulled off their own version of Fashion Week with "Design-Into-Dance," a benefit fashion show that raised money for the company's upcoming spring season.

The dancers strutted down a makeshift runway donning colorful, wearable art designs by Donna Marxer and Anna Alisa Belous. Costumes with nature themes dominated, and choreography was perfectly tailored to fit the motif. Two women dressed as butterflies performed beautiful grand jetes as a man holding a net high above his head chased them down the Marley runway. Other costumes with a more urban vibe inspired quirky contemporary choreography, which was performed gracefully in 4-inch heels. Artwork lined the perimeter of the studio, and life-sized paper doll cutouts provided entertainment for dance aficionados looking for a photo op. Champagne and cupcakes were an added treat, and the constant flow of current tunes kept things upbeat, hip and fresh.

While the quality of most outfits rivaled ones you'd see in a real runway show, others appeared less carefully crafted, or what the fashion world calls "boho- chic." But the lack of haute couture is understandable after speaking with artistic director Rebecca Kelly—times are tough for smaller companies and it's necessary to organize offbeat fundraising events using all available resources at hand. Rebecca Kelly Ballet did just that, and did it successfully. In addition to ticket sales, the company raised funds by selling t-shirts and caps, along with handmade trinkets like scarves and butterfly pins.

Rebecca Kelly Ballet (RKB) has been touring throughout the U.S. and Europe since 1980. Fusing modern, contemporary and ballet, Kelly, who graduated from Bryn Mawr College with a B.A. in History of Oriental Religion, creates ballets that touch on various topics such as the environment and social issues. The company performs biannually, and is also involved in a variety of workshops, professional classes, intensives, early childhood and teen classes, and special events.

RKB's spring gala performance, which will consist of two New York City premieres and one revival, is scheduled for April 22-24 at Ailey Citigroup Theater at the Joan Weill Center for Dance. For more tickets and information, visit www.rebeccakellyballet.org.



Uthman Ebrahim, Therese Wendler, Francesco La Macchia, in "Earth "and "Waters" from Adirondack Elemental, costumes by Anna Alisa Belous