

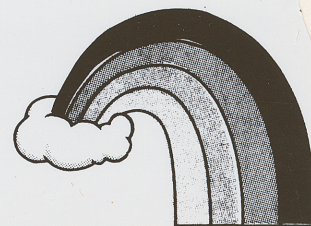
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# Express-News



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## Gordon sends ordinary into the absurd

Here's what I like about choreographer-performer David Gordon: just about everything.

I like his work, first of all. I like the way he builds his pieces with movement that ranges from ordinary everyday activity to high-tension gymnastics and lyrical combinations.

I like the warmth and clarity of his constructions and their humor. I like the roguish punning that is so much a part of his work — the way he sets us up then knocks the pins out with an off-the-wall verbal or physical non sequitur.

I like his keen imagination, wit, and sense of the absurd. I've always like these things about Gordon and what he puts on stage.

These things are all present in his latest work, "United States," two parts of which were shown Monday

### Review

night at the McAllister Auditorium under the banner of the New Directions in Music & Dance Festival.

"Words, Music, Wildlife and Weather," as it now stands, includes a salute to San Antonio — dancing to music by Los Polkeros de Ben Tavera King, a local band. It also includes impressions of California, Iowa, Nebraska, Washington, New Mexico and Oregon.

"Mozart, Memories and the First Frost," also on the program, combines the originally independent New England and Minnesota sections, the result of Gordon's mix-and-match approach to the 30-month project.

With dialogue, music and sounds of nature setting the tone, the two sections were filled with extraordinary dancing by Gordon's 12-member Pick Up Co., headed by Valda Setterfield, Dean Moss, and Chuck Finlon.

The dancers moved through their paces with a sure sense of themselves and the work. They tumbled, lifted into exquisite extensions, rolled and paired with gentle surety and often a sense of fun.

The sound score was assembled by Chuck Hammer; the costumes were created by Gordon and Jeffrey Ullman. They provided enrichment to dancing of relentless beauty.

Roger Oliver and Curtis Grund researched the work, pulling together materials that includes anecdotes, music and musings.

— JOAN PIKULA