

Milwaukee Sentinel

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Dancers can't make a wrong move

By JAY JOSLYN
Sentinel critic

The Society of Fine Arts presented the most thoroughly enjoyable dance program seen in Milwaukee for years Tuesday in the Pitman Theater at Alverno College.

The dancers in David Gordon's Pick Up Company are completely assured, superbly disciplined performers enjoying the kind of freedom that comes only with being unable to make a wrong move.

Gordon set these graceful dancers into a flowing movement that was ever changing, ever becoming, slipping seamlessly from ensemble to

Dance

solos and small groups and back to full ensemble.

The program developed into two half-hour dances representing Gordon's ongoing project of representing the entire United States through dance.

The first half — the more successful of the two — centered on San Francisco, with the dancers responding to diverse musical tributes to the city on the bay.

The music involved everything from the blues and burlesque to the banal, with a portion of a Mozart

piano concerto thrown in for good measure.

The response at times tapped rhythmic patterns and at others mimicked the flavor of the music, even to the point of mouthing the vocals.

The second half presented a much broader canvas that touched on the Plains, the Northwest and the Southwest in music and in big chunks of recited prose that found the dancers developing wonderfully evocative abstractions mirroring the essence of the accompaniment.