



MIX-TAPE: THE Z-SIDES Enchants at Actor's Fund Arts Center

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by Matt Hanson

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Dance is emotionally provocative, because it seamlessly affirms the intense exposure, and full-bodied requirements of the creative process. So, as such immense feeling ensued in *Perchance to Dream*, a wildly magical portrayal of [transcendence], and natural humanity, and harmonic variance in three movements.

Firstly, in *The Sleepwalker*, choreographed by Alyssa Caliendo and Micheline Wu, Mich-Mash Productions proved masterful. The music was simply perfect. Arvö Part drew all ears to a note, as "Fur Alina Part I" resounded against a moonlight projection. Black and white, the costumes of the dancers merged with the tasteful grace of sweet remembrance, intoned as through gentle, airy movement.

Enter *The Dream*. Choreographed by Micheline Wu in collaboration with twelve other artists, *Perchance to Dream* opened into a fascinating triumph of set design, costume, and narrative. Micheline Wu, who conceived and directed *Perchance to Dream*, also graces the Actor's Fund Arts Center stage with Alyssa Caliendo as lead dancer.

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[Caliendo] spun illumined, only to fall inward, embracing the soul of night in a union of body and time. Through traditional Chinese water sleeves, she was cast off, and delicately carried, as by a winged, angelic mystery. Lastly, *The Dream* presages *Awakening* with Caliendo perched above another body on high, as in royal matriarchal regalia.

Overall... each and every last dancer warmed the early fall night with haunting insight, and nuanced brilliance.