

Choreographer of “The Lion King” at DanceSummer festival

You danced well, Garth Fagan!¹

He created the choreography for “The Lion King”, but he is a king himself: Garth Fagan. On Tuesday evening he is demonstrating at the DanceSummer festival in Innsbruck, that lions can not only roar but that the company of the king dances to perfection as well. Till Saturday at the Congress. It is a must-see!

Almost imperceptibly the curtain rises. No music sounds. One dancer is on the stage. Then more appear. Slowly the music begins. Garth Fagan calls it a “prelude”. The choreography is from 1981. But it is not dusty. Quite the opposite. The first piece already demonstrates: Garth Fagan works with opposites. There is no body-mass index: whether short or tall, skinny or full-bodied – perfection is defined individually. Age is similarly irrelevant. Again and again Garth Fagan finds inspiration in Africa. He finds inspiration in classical dance. He connects the New World with the Old one. Garth Fagan creates a universe of commonalities. A common ground called happiness. A common ground that is based on emotions. Garth Fagan tears down barriers. Not just as far as the choice of his dancers is concerned. Opposites are dissolved. People move closer together. Only dance can accomplish this. Only the DanceSummer festival can accomplish this!

Garth Fagan shows with “Feel/ Think” that his emotionality does not switch off his intellect. Garth Fagan makes the case for the perfection of the imperfect. That is what defines this company. That is what makes Garth Fagan king.

With “Edge/ Joy” Garth Fagan creates a counterpoint. He contrasts the easily accessible with the more edgy for the audience. This shows his versatility. This shows how quickly the page can turn. Effortlessness becomes difficulty. In dance - as in life.

The evening began with a choreography from 1981. With “From Before” from 1978 the evening ends. An evening that has demonstrated the evolution of dance. An evening that depicts Garth Fagan’s visions through a skillful blend of African elements, modern dance and classical ballet. With Garth Fagan the future has begun already. Till Saturday daily at 8:30pm at Congress!

¹ The title is a pun on the title of a popular children’s book “Gut gebrüllt, Löwe!” which roughly translates as “You roared well, Lion!”