

ballet tech Cincinnati's Made in America a big hit!



Baseball Legend Charlie Davis with the Baseball team cast of Made in America

ballet tech cincinnati presented the Leaping for Literacy production of Made in America at the Aronoff Center on May 4-5, 2007, and the show was a big hit among audience members.

The Leaping for Literacy project, sponsored by the Stillson Foundation, Fifth Third Bank, Trustee, took the audience on a journey through time and across our nation with inspiring stories of three courageous American youth based on the "Dear America," "American Girl," and "My Name is America" book series, including: Four Bases, the story of an African-American Boy in the 1940's Negro Baseball Leagues, Over the Rhine about an Appalachian Girl in 1930's Cincinnati, and Alta California depicts a Mexican-American Girl in the 1840's.

Original choreography by three local choreographers, Mario de la Nuez, Kenneth "Kyne" Franks, and Jana Lane

Hatcher, showcased a wide variety of dance styles including ballet, tap, clogging, jazz, modern and musical theater and music that represents Hispanic, Appalachian and African American cultures, including Blues, Gospel, live Appalachian Fiddle Music by Russ Childers, and guests Southern Pride Cloggers.

Maria Curro Kreppel of University of Cincinnati said, "Bravo! I don't know quite what I expected to experience, but I do know that I was amazed by what I saw and heard and felt within your Friday audience. The talent, professionalism, range of age and bodies dancing their delight--and making us all smile in return--was amazing to feel a part of."

Over the Rhine took the

audience back to the coal mines of West Virginia during the Great Depression. Guests, Fiddler Russ Childers and the Southern Pride Cloggers started off the evening with an exhilarating display of clogging and fiddling. Then the audience got a wonderful tour as the family migrated to Cincinnati in the 30's: Union Terminal, Music Hall, Fountain Square, Findlay Market, and even the old Cotton Club with a dazzling array of different dance styles and music.

Choreographer and Executive Director Jana Lane Hatcher explained, "It was a big undertaking...but really rewarding - the group of dancers/performers was like a big family by the end ...the ballerinas learned to clog (a rarity indeed), some cloggers learned to waltz, and we all laughed a great deal through the process!"