

BOSTON Herald

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2003 ■ 50 CENTS (75 CENTS 30 MILES OUTSIDE BOSTON)

Mateo kicks off weekend of fun

It's a smorgasbord of dance this weekend in Boston and Cambridge, and with a little planning you can catch almost all of the six courses on this varied menu.

Jose Mateo opens his company's 18th season tonight with a program titled "Undercurrents" at the Sanctuary Theatre in Harvard Square. For the past two years, Mateo has offered premieres and revivals in a fascinating series that permits one to observe his choreographic web of thought unfolding. His unique style is becoming more rarefied with each installation.

Prima ballerina Meg Flaherty and dancer Cosmin Marculetiu will dance Mateo's "Courtly Lovers," a ballet set to Haydn's "Surprise Symphony" that successfully combines subtle humor and pageantry with the look and feeling of Wedgwood ceramics.

At the other end of the spectrum is "The Last Circus," a dance from 1990

Dance THEODORE BALE

that Mateo has reconstructed for the Sanctuary Theatre. Set to Stravinsky's unfamiliar "Concerto for Piano and Wind Instruments," it centers on the artistic preoccupation with circus life in the early part of the 20th century.

"When I thought of that period, I thought of the clown paintings of Picasso," Mateo said. "And those have both the superficiality of the clown with the sort of depth and darkness."

Mateo said his desire to revive this particular work was triggered by three factors. "The movement style of the company is a lot clearer now, and the vocabulary is more familiar. Secondly, we have more dancers, so there is more opportunity to bring in different people and increase the virtuosity. Thirdly, the space we perform in now

forces you to look at things with a new eye. You're not looking into the box — you're in the box," said Mateo.

"Stravinsky has been used a lot — I think partly because Balanchine did set a model for a number of ways in which his music could be used," said Mateo. "I was fascinated by the constant change in meter and rhythms, and I was curious as to whether or not the body could adapt to those changing rhythms."

For even more contrast, Mateo will premiere a ballet for four men and five women, set to Schumann's "Piano Quintet, Opus 44."

"We're using three of the four movements. Each one is very different from the other, in terms of dynamics, but they all share a certain kind of darkness," said Mateo.

Tickets for the program, which runs through Oct. 26, are \$28. Call 617-354-7467.

Also in Cambridge this weekend is "Five in a Box" at Green Street Studios, which features new dances by Bill McLaughlin, Adrienne Mincz, Nicole Pierce, Christien Polos, and Jill Spiewak

Eng (tonight and tomorrow at 8; \$15). On Sunday night at 6:30, Nicola Hawkins is guest host for Open Floor, also at Green Street Studios. Hawkins and other local choreographers will show works in progress; suggested donation is \$3-\$5.

"Natyanjali," a wide-ranging showcase of Indian classical dance, happens tonight at The Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Little Kresge Auditorium. Tickets: \$5-\$7;

call 617-253-4003.

At Boston University's Sargent Dance Studio tomorrow night and Sunday afternoon is "Dance Showcase 2003," featuring contemporary work by David Connolly, Satu Hummasti, Kelly Kocinski, Stephany Mendzela, Joan Eileen Murray, Margot Parsons, Liz Roncka, Olivier Besson, Micki Taylor-Pinney and Jody Weber. Tickets: \$8-\$15; call 617-353-1597.



'UNDERCURRENTS' opens tonight in Cambridge.