



Jeudi, 22 octobre 2009

Star crossed ballet

Comparisons to Jerome Robbins' *Jets and Sharks* are not so far-fetched when the Montague's and Capulet's first clash in **Jean-Christophe Maillot's *Romeo and Juliet***. However, this modern adaptation of Shakespeare's tale, performed by **les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal** at Théâtre Maisonneuve (175 Ste-Catherine W.), is perhaps the most original since *West Side Story* itself.

The strength of Maillot's storytelling lies in the harmony of contemporary and classical components. Opting for a minimalist backdrop and switching classical pantomime for raw human gesture, the director of the Ballets de Monte-Carlo retains

Prokofiev's score and enough elements of classical ballet to preserve the potency of the narrative. The result is a *Romeo and Juliet* accessible to the public but no less rich for it.

This production also affords les Grands an opportunity to show off new talent. Particularly noteworthy were **Xuan Cheng** and **André Silva**, two members who demonstrated immense stage presence in their roles as an unusually mature Juliet and a flamboyantly macho Mercutio.

Oct. 22 and 24; Oct. 29-30, 8 p.m. Tickets \$31-\$92.

—DAVID LEVITZ



DANCE ROMANCE: *Romeo and Juliet*