

National Festival of Movement 2018



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Once again we were off to Birmingham and the Symphony Hall for our biennial Festival of Movement – subtitled this year, the ‘Spirit of Dance’.

Lisa Terry and Alison Clarke were the chosen producers for the East Midlands and wow what performances they were.

‘Apassionado’ is Spanish for ‘passionate and Lisa Terry was clearly inspired by the Paso Doble, Flamenco and Tango, for her emotive interpretation in this item.



In her introduction, Lisa wrote ‘Dancing from the heart as much as the body, the movements, full of desire and intent, stir the senses and communicate both emotionally and physically the spirit of each dance; the story-telling of the bullfight in the Paso Doble; the mesmerising rhythms and attitude of the Flamenco; and the intense relationship between dancers in the Tango’.

Lisa’s choreography using red material to represent the flamenco dancer’s skirt and the matador’s cape, added a fiery swirl. The performers moved around the floor, in ever-changing shapes and formations as the dramatic encounter unfolds.



From an audience point of view, the stage was filled with a mass of swirling red that never stopped and was, quite literally, breath-taking.

Many more enjoyable items followed before we had the opportunity to see our second performance by an East Midlands team.



Using the theme of 'Adoration' Alison Clarke produced an item that couldn't be more different. Set to the Brooklyn Duo's instrumental version of 'All of Me' by John Legend, her interpretation of the music was moving and beautiful.

Alison explains that music helps us express our emotions. "For people who know the song it talks about loving people including all their imperfections,

and this made me think of loving/adoring people no matter what.

"Parent, Child, Lover, Friend. At some point in our lives we all hope to feel that deep long-lasting feeling of adoration, either to give it or to receive, you need to be loved to feel adored. To be put on a pedestal".

Alison added that many of her team were also in Lisa Terry's item. "It felt more like one East Mids. team with two producers rather than two separate teams, and it was lovely to be in the same dressing room as everyone else "



This feeling was reflected by a seasoned team member who said: *"It was wonderful to be part of a team that had a wider range of ages performing this year with one performing for the first time and three representing the under 25's"*.