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Izzie dance awards honor ballerina, aerialist

Rachel Howard, Chronicle Dance Correspondent Published 4:00 am, Wednesday, March 25, 2009



Pat Johnson

Choreographer Joe Goode (left), Wonderboy and his creator Basil Twist.

The 23rd annual Isadora Duncan Dance Awards drew a robust crowd to the Brava Theater on Monday, where a wildly diverse slate of nominees attested to the vitality of Bay Area dance.

San Francisco Ballet principal dancer Maria Kochetkova's tender portrayal of "Giselle" shared individual performance honors with Circo Zero aerialist Emily Leap. Circo Zero director Keith Hennessy accepted the award on Leap's behalf, adding he was pretty certain this was the first time an Izzie had gone "to a trapeze artist who did a three-man-high with two men standing on her."

Ensemble performance also yielded a tie between the spiritually entwined Laurel Keen and Brett Conway of Lines Ballet, and the explosive Rodney Bell and Sonsheree Giles of Axis Dance Company, a troupe combining dancers with and without disabilities. Joe Goode won the choreography award for the emotionally revealing dance theater piece he created for Axis, but Axis lost out in the company performance category to Shinichi Momo Iova-Koga's transcontinental Butoh collective, inkBoat. Also vying for company performance were Lines Ballet, the Joe Goode Performance Group and De Rompe y Raja Cultural Association, a Peruvian troupe.

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