

Trocks and tutus

Popular male dance company strikes a hit again

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Humor and eclectic dance blended on stage Wednesday at Chicago's Harris Theater for Music and Dance.

The boys --- Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo -- were back in town and performed their highly artistic and comedic show to a packed house of fans.

The all-male troupe, commonly known as The Trocks, were founded in 1974 in New York. Their Chicago performance proved to be a rousing celebration of dance as it featured a mix of classical ballet and modern technique with hilarious touches thrown in.

The Trocks, who dress in tutus and girlish gowns (if they're performing female roles), are not just experts in slapstick and funny theatrics, they are skilled dancers as well. During their Harris Theater show, their point work, swift turns, leaps and fancy footwork proved impressive.

And laughter frequently filled the venue as dancers sometimes fell, flailed about or dragged each other across the stage.

Among works on the show's roster were "Le Lac Des Cygnes" (or "Swan Lake's" Act II), starring The Trocks in white tutus and the modern "Patterns in Space," featuring a quartet of dancers performing Merce Cunningham's modern choreography to hysterical musical accompaniment by two company members who provided makeshift music by rattling paper, gargling and manipulating a host of other "ordinary" instruments. The rousing Spanish dance-inspired "Majisimas." was also a highlight.

Another crowd pleaser was the company's hit "The Dying Swan," complete with feathers flying off the dancer's disintegrating tutu. **ELOISE MARIE VALADEZ**