

ENTERTAINMENT

ARTS &

CITY PAPER

BALTIMORE'S FREE ALTERNATIVE WEEKLY

BEST PLAY

ROMEO AND JULIET AT THEATRE PROJECT

Baltimore's Theatre Project, New York's Bond Street Theatre, and Bulgaria's Theatre Tsvete offered a production that shamelessly appropriated a Shakespeare classic and reduced the Bard's immortal *Romeo and Juliet* to about 10 lines. It played well in Macedonian refugee camps, and it captured the imagination of the Baltimore audience. And for all the skeptics (us included), this extraordinary combination of mime, puppets, and choreographed dancing taught us that movement theatre doesn't have to be a dumping ground for unemployed dance majors. It works if it's a disciplined ensemble effort, and the brilliance of this production—partly attributable to extraordinary use of lighting and set design—throws the glove down for the host city of Baltimore. Much goes on in theater now that doesn't involve warmed-over Broadway, classy classics, or Plays We All Know and Love. But do we have to wait for theater groups such as Tsvete to come over from Bulgaria to find out what happens when motivated professionals go out on a limb?

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