



## UAPRESENTS STUDENT CRITIC PROGRAM

### **Trey McIntyre Project** Review by Cristina Figueroa

On April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011 a professional group of dancers called “The Trey McIntyre Project” came to Desert View High School. This company, who travels internationally, performed for hundreds of students in the auditorium. It was a new experience for the students including myself. Everyone learned something new from the performance. This experience was both interactive and entertaining.

All their pieces were beautifully portrayed and filled with such talent. The style of dancing was surely something different. For example, one of the pieces was danced to a poem with no background music. The company mainly improvised, but it was not what you would see at a party; it was not mainstream or stereotypical at all. However, even though it was freestyle, it was still created from a sort of formula that approximated ballet, long flowing and graceful movements as well as jumps and leaps.

The performers also allowed the crowd to tell them how to dance. They took commands from the audience as to whether they should dance happy, sad, slow, fast, high, or low. It was difficult to portray the difficulty the audience demanded, but the dancers were able to pull it off. I found this to be very entertaining. Additionally, they chose to bring onstage a student from the school's dance team. They asked her to dance with them, which was funny and interesting to see.

The group also performed choreographed work. They danced accompanied by many unique and uncommon types of music such as jazz and country. These pieces, which fell into a specific genre, were full of life and easier for the audience to understand as compared to the freestyle work.

Most songs had either the full group perform or just one person perform. However, the love piece used three performers. The story line was easy to follow. Their dance portrayed a story of jealousy and heartbreak. Two lovers danced beautifully and passionately with graceful lifts and close contact, while the lonely girl danced solo, sorrowful and full of slow, painful motions. She stomped around in a jealous rage and had an agonizing facial expression.

The company was a bit more informal at the school performance since the audience was only a bunch of curious and relaxed students. For example, the company would take small pauses between

pieces to talk about themselves and allow the students to ask questions. During these pauses, they would enlighten the audience about their careers, pursuing their passion, and how far they have gotten. Many of them have been dancing since they were children! The dancers then encouraged the audience to pursue their own passions. They also opened up the students' perspective about dancing. They told us that dance is just not moves or tricks that show what you can do, but an art form that expresses an idea or a feeling with your entire body. They beautifully described dancing as something sentimental and precious to them as if almost spiritual. It was interesting to hear what they had to say.

This was a very enjoyable performance. The audience learned quite a bit from the company's performance and their informative speeches. If the 'Trey McIntyre Project' visits your area, I would recommend that you watch their performance. It was definitely something I would watch again on my own.