

Beauty behind the clouds

> dance

BALLET UNDER THE STARS
Singapore Dance Theatre
Fort Canning Green
Last Sunday

June Cheong

BALLET Under The Stars became Ballet Under The Clouds last Sunday.

As rainclouds gathered and drops started pelting down, the 1,200-strong crowd dispersed, leaving patches of the sodden field at the Fort Canning Green empty.

Pity, as the Singapore Dance Theatre (SDT) had kept the best for the last. Choreographer Edmund Stripe's Piano Concerto No. 2, Opus 102 was a sprightly affair of flashing feet and fast turns.

While the female dancers dazzled with their fleet-footedness, bouncing spiritedly on the balls of their feet, their male counterparts entertained the audience with a series of quick turns.

But the



ST PHOTO: CHEW SENG KIM

20-minute dance was cut short as the stage became too wet for the dancers to continue.

The triple bill of contemporary ballet pieces may have been washed out by inclement weather but there were delicate moments of beauty amidst the rain.

Paul De-Masson's La Rose Malade (inset) was a

gentle ode to the rose. The dancers rolled through their movements with languid grace, arching their backs and extending their limbs when lifted into the air. Coalescing in a group and then falling apart into separate pas de deux, their elegant poses traced the blooming and withering of the flower.

SDT resident choreographer Jeffrey Tan also revealed a new aesthetic sensibility. While the first half of his 20-minute piece Breath Of Love was flattened by unremarkable group dances, the pace and energy of the dance picked up in the second half.

Although the trio of dances was hardly representative of what SDT dancers are capable of, with the festive picnicking on the grass often seeming more important than the dances on stage, the event was still a rewarding one with occasional glimpses of beauty through the grey drizzle.