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Magic of 'Aladdin' enlivened 2007 dance scene

By SALLY VALLONGO
BLADE STAFF WRITER

In Toledo's classical dance world, each year seems to bring a new company. And each new company brings something fresh and innovative to the busy scene.

The highlight of 2007 was not from the newest company, yet no one would call Ballet Theatre of Toledo, which presented its stunning new production, Aladdin, an established company. Yet.

Founded in 2005 by Nigel Burgoine with dancers, a board, and teachers who had met at Toledo Ballet, the new company is fulfilling the promise of its launch with each successful performance.

Creating his own Aladdin had been a dream of Burgoine's for years. His Royal Ballet-based choreography and a contemporary production style infused fresh and colorful life into this ancient tale from 1001 Arabian Nights, set to music by Rimsky-Korsakov.

Burgoine pulled off the ambitious project in his distinct style: rigorous classical training infused with savvy showmanship and joie de vivre.

Contact Sally Vallongo at: svallongo@theblade.com.