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Grupo Corpo ★★★★★

Published Monday 6 October 2014 at 10:49 by **Neil Norman**

The literal translation of Grupo Corpo is Body Group; but it also carries the word 'corporation' within its shadow. A family affair, it applies classical ballet precision to the looser patterns of Brazilian folk and contemporary dance. There is little doubt that the large company (22 members) is one of the fittest, sexiest dance groups on the planet.

The two pieces in the Sadler's Wells programme occupy different terrain. Created in 2013, *Triz* is an essay in monochrome with the dancers all clad in skintight leotards divided into black and white down the centre. Moving in rhythmic, serpentine parabolas to Lenine's jittery, jagged soundtrack constructed from shards of tortured strings, the dancers weave in and out of a metallic curtain in large and small groups. Heads are flung back at impossible angles, legs kick high and a trio with two men and a crop-haired girl oozes an edgy eroticism. The narcotically repetitive final sequence outstays its welcome but there are many pleasures embedded in its 40 minutes.

Parabelo was made in 1997 and is a much broader exploration of Brazilian dance forms. Following the strange, clockwork opening in which the entire group moves in unison on hands and feet like alien insects, it bursts into a vivid and accelerated celebration of Brazilian culture, complete with a mutant samba and a duet of exquisite poise, strength and balance. Becoming more colourful as it progresses, it culminates in a controlled explosion of dance that makes you hug yourself with delight. After nearly 40 years, the Pederneiras Corporation is still very much in business.

Verdict: A sensual shimmyfest from Brazil's leading contemporary dance group



A scene from *Grupo Corpo*, Sadler's Wells, London

Photo: Tristram Kenton

Production information

Sadler's Wells, London, October 1-4, then touring until November 5

Composers:	Lenine, Tom Ze, Jose Miguel Wisnik
Choreographer:	Rodrigo Pederneiras
Artistic director:	Paulo Pederneiras
Design:	Freusa Zechmeister (costume), Fernando Velloso/Paulo Pederneiras (set), Paulo Pederneiras/Gabriel Pederneiras (lighting)
Technical:	Pedro Pederneiras (technical director)
Cast includes:	Andressa Corso, Bianca Victal, Carol Rasslan, Carolina Amares, Dayanne Amaral, Edson Hayzer, Elias Bouza, Filipe Bruschi, Grey Araujo, Victor Vargas, Yasmin Almeida
Producer:	Grupo Corpo, Dance Consortium
Running time:	1hr 40mins