RIOULT’S DEEP PURPLE

Posted by Barlo Perry on Thursday, June 1, 2017.

Fire in the Sky by Sofia Negron

There’s a glam-rock sock hop at the Joyce this weekend, courtesy of choreographer/entrepreneur Pascal Rioult and his driving company Rioult Dance, performing the world premiere of Rioult’s FIRE IN THE SKY. Jere Hunt plays an Iggy-Ziggy rock god, mesmerizing his band of followers with animal grace in painted-on, silver-and-black, zebra-striped jeans—designed by Patricia Field and David Dalrymple, who took a bow during the enthusiastic curtain calls on opening night.

The choreography, the costumes, and the attitude are pure androgynous Seventies, but rather than go over the top with a Velvet Goldmine score, Rioult wisely chose to set this new piece to the prole boogie of Deep Purple. “Smoke on the Water,” “Child in Time,” “Lazy,” and “Highway Star” set the scene for an extended workout by this uniformly excellent troupe.

Sabatino A. Verlezza—all energy, charisma, athleticism, and command of precise form—is a particular standout.

A revisited TE DEUM, a Rioult piece from 1995, opens the evening.

RIOULT DANCE—TE DEUM and FIRE IN THE SKY, nightly through June 4.

JOYCE THEATER, 175 Eighth Avenue, at 19th Street, New York City.

http://www.paris-la.com/riouls-deep-purple/
Image credits: (Top) **Rioul Dance, Fire in the Sky** (2017), choreographed by **Pascal Rioult**.

(Second and third from top) **Rioul Dance, Fire in the Sky** (2017), choreographed by **Pascal Rioult**, rehearsal.

(Fourth from top) **Rioul Dance, Fire in the Sky** (with **Jere Hunt**, center).

(Bottom) **Rioul Dance, Fire in the Sky** (with **Sabatino A Verlezza**, far left). All photographs by **Sofia Negron**.