

Fitzpatrick's mastery a hidden treasure of Keene

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I saw Danielle Fitzpatrick's opus (Sunday).

Keene has a way of hiding its treasures, the widest Main Street, the gorgeous parks, its proximity to so many wonderful trails, Monadnock, not least among them. I've never had anyone dispute my claim that Keene is the Lightweight Dining Champion of the World, but I don't hear people trumpeting it, either. Maybe it is the quiet New England humility; maybe we just expect the best, but I am inspired enough to crow about the play I saw Sunday. Ms. Danielle, as she is known by her young students, is no ordinary dance and drama instructor. Being the father of one of her charges, I have seen many plays at the classroom-cum-theater and I say without hesitation Ms. Danielle is star. Not like the licentious reprobates that are smeared all over the tabloids at the grocery store, but a master craftsman of the performing arts.

After another delightful meal in downtown Keene, my family went to see MoCo's newest event. Ms. Danielle strode into the spotlight in sensible heels, back ramrod straight, in clarion voice, she announced The MoCo Minutemen. A story set, for the most part, right here in Keene, centered around the Wyman family, of Wyman Tavern fame, with notable appearances by George Washington, Paul Revere, Thomas Jefferson and a bespectacled, dancing Ben Franklin. She downplayed, in classic New England humility, her authorship of the play and the many months that she put into research, writing, composition and choreography. The kids did great. If you have never seen one of the Young Art's productions by MoCo, you should not miss the next opportunity. Some are intent on mastering the craft, others sway back and forth and just stare at the lights, they all are a joy to behold. There will be a abbreviated performance at the Wyman Tavern at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday.

Teachers' management of large groups of kids is a wonder and Danielle Fitzpatrick is master, but Sunday, I saw her greatest work.

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Keene