I went to see the two o’clock performance of Connections on Saturday, September 29th. I loved the performance as a whole and I thought there were many elements of the show that altogether made it a great production. I liked some of the ballets more than others for different reasons, but the whole production together was put together very well. I am very glad I was able to watch it and see the beauty that IU brings to Bloomington.

My favorite ballet was Wildflower by Sasha Janes. The use of lighting and technology joined with the fluidity of the choreography made it engaging and interesting to watch. The fact that the background changed colors and I did not even notice it until it already happened just shows how well the lighting was done. The dancers were so talented and made the choreography look seamless. All of the lifts were so creative and it was something fresh and new. The shapes the couple made were so interesting and unique. I loved how she was wearing pants, I thought it was very unconventional and I thought it was beautiful how they flowed while she moved. The music was beautiful and the choreography matched it so well. My only critique would be that I loved it so much I wish it was longer. This piece was overall so beautiful and so well thought out, and I really truly enjoyed every second of it.

In Carousel, which I believe was a great opener, the uses of space and shapes were exceptional. Christopher Wheeldon is my favorite choreographer, so, even before watching it, I already knew I would love it. My favorite part was when the dancers made a circle and held the
spokes themselves and became a human carousel. The dancers were very in sync with one-another and they made it look easy. The costumes were colorful, yet simple, and helped make the piece even more fun to watch. I liked the contrast between soft and sharp movements; it made the piece so interesting. This piece was full of energy and a great way to start the program.

In *Antique Epigraphs* by Jerome Robbins, the costumes were beautiful and all the dancers were seamless, however the choreography was not my favorite. I thought it was a little bit redundant, but I still thought it was elegant and very feminine. The dancing was almost ethereal; it was so light and airy. It was gorgeous, but I still liked *Wildflower* and *Carousel* more.

My least favorite of the four pieces had to be *Deuce Coupe* by Twyla Tharp. I thought the girl in white doing adagio for the whole time was incredibly talented, however I was distracted by the rest of the dancers around her. It felt almost as if it was making fun of ballet, which I did not particularly like. I think it was a little bit too long, as well. The costumes were colorful and interesting. I did like the contrast between the ballerina’s white costume verses the others’ colorful ones. I still enjoyed this piece, yet not as much as any of the others.

In conclusion, the program as a whole was wonderful. I would definitely watch it again and recommend to a friend. The use of lighting was wonderful, the dancing was wonderful, and overall the costumes were very aesthetically pleasing. I am very happy I was able to go see this performance and see IU’s ballet program in action.