

VINEYARD



GAZETTE

[Forward](#) | [Subscribe](#) | [Subscribe to the Notebook](#)

Notebook

Aug 16, 2016

Good morning Gazette readers:

A man walks unsuspecting into the future, simply by attending a Built on Stilts performance. His daughter performs in the youngest troupe of dancers. It is cute and sweet but as the show progresses the man's mood deepens.

Most of the dancers in the show are female, and represent many different age ranges. At about the midway mark he starts to see his daughter's face in all of the various performers, from tween to teen, to twenty and thirty-something, middle age, old age and beyond. He is riveted, watching his daughter metaphorically mature in front of his eyes. Then his thoughts turn to his own mortality. Which of these stages will he witness and which will he not?

When the show is over, father and daughter walk hand in hand through the dark and quiet streets of Oak Bluffs. And although he does not share his thoughts with his daughter he notices she is holding onto his hand more tightly than usual, as if she really had danced through the decades and is afraid to let him go.