

REVIEW

WHILE WE STRIVE

Arousing exploration of time, space and sound in dance

**** (4/5 stars)

They are the basic ingredients of dance: time, space, movement and lighting by which we see it all. Choreographer Arno Schuitemaker thematizes those elements in *While We Strive*, and adds sound to it. How does movement influence sound, how does sound interact with space, with time, and what associations do shifts in these evoke in the observer? Simple questions, in a sense, but Schuitemaker – who studied aerospace technology and developed his knowledge of neuroscience – presents them in an intelligent and insightful way.

Directly upon entering the stage, the three dancers (Mitchell-Lee van Rooij, Marjolein Vogels and Ivan Ugrin) underline their presence in the here and now, the time and space of the spectator: with the auditorium lights up they examine each other and the audience. Then they get going. Each has a small speaker in hand that produces rustling noises. By moving with it through the space, by shaking and turning, they create a counterpoint as a sound layer on top of the soundscape by Massimo Cervini.

And there they emerge before the mind's eye: airplanes taking off, panting breaths, whining vacuum cleaners, hoarsely quacking ducks. Every one of them produced by deceleration or acceleration of the movement through the space. The lighting design by Ellen Knops lets that space change character suddenly a couple of times.

It is pure form and by no means a Knees-Up-Mother-Brown dance, but who goes along with the the exhilarating sounds is in for an arousing hour.

Francine van der Wiel

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