

Together_till the end

Arno Schuitemaker

A delightful programme in the Rencontres chorégraphiques replaces the principles of repetition with new horizons. Sensuality included.

By Gérard Mayen - published 2 June 2016

Empathic vibes

Though electronic, the music accompanying Together_Till The End by Arno Schuitemaker is very round and supple, subtly percussive and vibrant. No trace of techno in its sound. Nor in the movement idiom of the two male dancers in the piece, either. Long fixed on the floor and fixed in the pelvis at first, these two begin a loop with their upper bodies, balancing their scapular arches in a lateral descent towards the floor and back up by the flank.

The two move identically. They will persist in a tireless repetition of this basic motif, which they enrich with subtle variations, accents and amplifications. That shows up with a frank and virile energy; a lively engagement, solid, unrelenting. But it's an undulating cycle and this phrase that seems to never want to end, too, is marked by a sensual intoxication. One is drawn into a vortex, one anticipates the exhaustion, one perceives the heavy breathing, the spittle, the sweat.

At the point of maximum amplitude, the music stops. But not so the sense of that fusion, which has condensed in those bodies, like in the empathic vibes that course between the bodies; those in the audience included. The duration of the performance is short lived. But it's transcendent. A pure principle of energy seems to have been distilled in the spirit. Then everything deflates under the evident heaviness of release from gravity. The human condition. And its danced possibilities.