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ALMOST DARK IN THE FESTIVAL “scènes étrangères”

The body, medium of the unconscious

Almost dark, dark like the subsoil of this endless and obscure subconscious that Hans Van den Broeck wants us to explore in his last creation, presented at La Rose des Vents in Villeneuve d’Ascq , at the festival “scènes étrangères”.

By means of a choreography, at times original, sometimes brutal, made around the theme of redemption, Almost Dark puts on stage obsessions, fears, rituals, fantasies, and conflicts like movement paintings. Scenes of artistic skating on Spanish corrido music, a human body transformed in a lighthouse that sends signs of despair to the horizon, a police officer/rope walker who drifts off, this piece shows us a world in decline. Sometimes in trance, sometimes under hypnosis, the body is put ,in this avant-garde choreography, into a raw hardship . From light trembling towards total release , the body is the only direct medium of the unconscious and becomes the expression of this redemption. In order to fulfill the physical demands of the piece it needed exceptional dancers-actors and Hans Van den Broeck, ex-dancer of the well-known Ballets C. de la B., has clearly been able to find them around the world, with Carole Bonneau (France); Palle Dyrvall (Sweden); Harold Henning (Belgium); Gustavo Miranda (Brazil) and Maria Ohman (Sweden). Surprising and upsetting, Almost dark is the anti-thesis of the traditional performance. It doesn’t pretend giving answers, but wants to elicit questions with the audience by introducing the uncertain and intriguing universe of the unconscious.

Difficult exercise, for sure, a paradox in itself surely, a constructive experience, without a doubt !