

L'Incontro Raffaella Giordano & Maria Muñoz

Excerpts reviews 2013 (partial for the website)

They have insolence and grace, high voice and wide gestures. On one side the Spanish Maria Muñoz, on the other the Italian Raffaella Giordano, two great ladies of contemporary dance that Alain Fourneau, director of the Theatre des Bernardines, wanted to bring together in the context of Dansem Festival; "(...) *They are both very particular, fiercely independent. But more secretly, one perceives a possible common quality that is revealed by the integrity and intensity of their presence (...).*" Together, these two fiery-tempered choreographers created *L'incontro*, a work that echoes this unprecedented union.

A Window on the world

"It is a show inspired by the encounter of our aim and languages," summarizes Raffaella Giordano with an irresistible accent. *It contains our experience but not only. The encounter is a window on the world, a unique and poetic place that has a soul. On stage, our bodies mix, contrast, break. We find the fracture, the loss, the absence and the other from us, that is the perception of a third. It is a non-linear journey full of forks and transformations".* On stage a white center, a black border and a white canvas in the background seem to watch over these two superb witches with their youthful gestures. A few enigmatic objects randomly arranged. Music by Bach and dialogues extracted from long-distance conversations between the two choreographers. *"We turned to each other, alone, walking in nature. We evoked the absence of the other, or spoke to ourselves. But these sentences do not seek logic. As in a journey through time, they are disordered phrases, with anticipations and delays,"* explains Raffaella Giordano. Long scheduled for Dansem and the Theatre des Bernardines, Maria Muñoz and Raffaella Giordano met only in 2011. Both admiring the other's work from a distance. *"We have in common this constant questioning of gesture, of not codable movement. Like me, Maria has a complex relationship with the scene. Paradoxically, I am always afraid of being seen, afraid of the pedestal that dance can represent. I believe that Maria also has a form of fragility within herself. In order to dance, she needs to go back to a physical truth. We worked together very simply, in reciprocity, listening to each other's silences and bodies. We nourished each other while remaining very attentive to the different resonances."*

Interview by Mounia Bachtarzi, **La Provence**, December 3, 2013

Dance unleashed by "L'incontro"

On the immaculate stage of the Les Bernardines theatre, dancers Maria Muñoz and Raffaella Giordano appear back to back to unveil *L'incontro*, their latest creation. Their bodies move in step with a light that gradually reveals itself. Sounds of wild animals and dry leaves whose swirls can be guessed. Ringing of bells. A few notes of Bach. It is in this atmosphere of communion between nature and a newly evoked god that the dancers abandon themselves to a non-dance of powerful sincerity. Liberation, restlessness, affection, fear, revolt, fullness... all states of mind are suggested by the movements of these two contrasting bodies. Raffaella, the slender and fragile Italian with the long hair. Maria, the robust and nervous Spanish woman with a 'à la garçonne' cut. Conceptual, almost hermetic, *L'incontro* never ceases to dismantle all logic in order to enrapture us. And reveal human complexity.

Mounia Bachtarzi, **La Provence**, December 6, 2013.