

Dance Against the Light

by Paula Beranova

96 Hodin+, Czech Republic

July 2005

Did you know that "blind spot" is also an international technical term for a dazzling light? Blind Spot performed by the dance company Palissimo was dazzling and brilliant. But it didn't work only with dance and light. Sound, video and also the work with space represented equal components of the performance. Nowadays, multimedia became a kind of fashion in the world of theatre. There are more and more of them, but less and less spectators are astonished by the interconnection of classical and new technologies on stage. The project of Palissimo offers something new for the bored eyes of today's spectator. It reached a higher level, where they are not too precious about media and used them with purpose (which in multimedia productions is not the case most of the time). In a nutshell, Blind Spot is a "lite" performance. Not only the choreography, but also a really clever use of diverse technologies simulate some kind of pathos. But in every movement, we feel a hyperbole, a criticism of all that pathos often found in dance or music.

Blind spot works as a cone of light, suddenly turned against the eyes of spectators. It surprises, it blinds them for a few seconds, it changes their view of that artificially created beauty on stage. The dance of Palissimo has the same stimulating effect. Two dancing men, one of them hearing impaired led only by his feeling. Two dancing women, different in look and the way they move. Tension is followed by consonance, repose by speed. The principal, expressed on stage by fire and water at one point, goes through the whole performance with diverse intensity. Even though some scenes could seem surprisingly long, it was great to observe even the smallest movement. That's because there is a big difference between watching dance and dance with meaning.

After the performance, I met one Czech light technician. He looked like a delighted spectator, but in spite of it he made a remark: "Those blind spots were not very efficient, were they?" In my opinion, Blind Spot with capital B worked really well. But it's just an equivoque ... it simply was impeccable.