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Dance Territories - Program 2 - Dance Review

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Dance Review by Nithya Iyer

What: Dance Territories Program 2 - Part of the 2014 Melbourne Festival

Where: Dancehouse

When: 17 & 18 Oct



Still Point Turning

Choreographer & Performer: Linda Luke

Composer: Vic McEwan

Video Artist: Martin Fox

Lighting Designer: Clytie Smith

Artistic Consultant: Tess de Quincey

Designer: Justine Shih-Pearson

Producer: Artful Management

A quirky commentary on the curious nature of time, linearity and the “the eternal instant renewing itself”, *Still Point Turning* is the latest

offering from Australian-based choreographer Linda Luke (De Quincey Co), created during the artist’s residency in Los Angeles in 2010. The work was inspired by TS Eliot’s *Burnt Norton* and the poem’s exploration of our existence in regulated movements and cycles of time.

Combining movement, video, sound and installation, to present a multifaceted piece, *Still Point Turning* feels to be more of an immersive installation of art than a dance performance, with an intimate and non-linear quality to the piece. Starting in darkness, the audience is introduced to the seemingly confused and inquisitive character at the centre of this piece, which appears to be set in a surrealist plane of existence.

The piece travels from thoughts around the idea of what time is, how we relate to it, how we refer to it and therefore how we are connected to boundaries of ‘time’, through to time as the absence of construct and linear perception. The dancer moves from being seemingly confused by the comings and goings of time to embracing its solitude and willfully exploring the abyss within which it exists. Beautiful imagery by video artist Martin Fox draws the piece from erratic fragmentation to a graceful sense of peace. Alongside this trajectory, the dancer follows this elusive mood with sincere fascination. Indeed, Luke – trained in the methodology of Bodyweather, a modern theatre practice inspired from Butoh – is a grounded performer with clarity around her subject matter.

Still Point Turning certainly has moments of clear connection and draws the audience in. However at times the diversification of media, whilst interesting, caused some lack of consolidation in the piece overall. Similarly, whilst the angular backdrops and lighting work by designer Clytie Smith were well structured in adding hidden dimensions and illusory qualities, the trajectory of the dancer through the space was unclear and sometimes created a lack of balance in the piece. Nevertheless, *Still Point Turning* scratches the surface of a very complex topic. A charming piece with strong elements and avenues for further exploration.

3 stars