

Still Point Turning review: Captivating at any pace

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Still Point Turning

Riverside Theatre, November 27

Linda Luke declares the springboard for her solo piece, *Still Point Turning*, to be the T. S. Eliot poem, *Burnt Norton*, with its "sense of the cyclical, regulating movement we are all caught in".

She updated her thoughts to today's high-speed world: via fragmentation and digitisation to ideas that electricity could be an analogy for the nervous body, and, from there, the involuntary movements that can result.

Yet, as she concludes, there is stillness at the heart of it all. Not literally, if we are still breathing. But relative stillness, nonetheless.

And she demonstrates the development of her thoughts in succinct movement that is beautifully and sympathetically encased in a package of accompanying art forms: Vic McEwan's soundscape, Martin Fox's video,

Clytie Smith's lighting and Justine Shih Pearson's costume design. Each makes a subtle and significant contribution to the whole.

Luke is a core member of De Quincey Co, whose butoh-based style is strongly evident and well suited to the fragmented character of her choreography, especially as it tones down from hyper-active to achingly slow, and, eventually, an almost agonisingly long, semi-reclining pose in which the only movement comes from her eyes and the rivulets of perspiration erupting from the effort of not moving.

Some aspects of the piece set the pivotal theme of time in an obvious way: a swinging pendulum centre stage at the front, some pendulum-like actions and a tick-tock sound. But there are always developments that capture the essence of the obvious and take it into more abstract realms.

Individually, the movements can be quite confronting in an off-centre, angular way that butoh followers will recognise and relish. And they always have something to express. In this sense, *Still Point Turning* is a rare example of dance that is as attractive intellectually as aesthetically.

This story was found at: <http://www.smh.com.au/entertainment/dance/still-point-turning-review-captivating-at-any-pace-20141130-11wz6d.html>