

## **DOT504 got through purifying catharsis of violence. Extraordinarily terrifying**

*October 22*

The performance *Collective Loss of Memory* by choreographers Josef Fruček and Linda Kapetanea exceeds most of regular domestic production – it is intensive, smart and comprehensible at the same time.

A Comment – let's start with a hackneyed cliché – DOT504 is dead, long live DOT504. After a failure with previous project 'Beating' that many people didn't see, simply because it was practically immediately recalled, the ensemble experienced a purifying catharsis. It started its new life really hilariously – the performance *Collective Loss of Memory* by choreographers Jozef Fruček and Linda Kapetanea (RootLessRoot Company) exceeds most of domestic production – it is intensive, smart and comprehensible at the same time.

On one hand the chosen theme is relatively unattractive – taking into consideration the society used to everyday news about hundreds of people dead and injured in numerous bigger or smaller utterly needless conflicts in most cases. Hmm, violence and killing. Anything else? Anything else that we didn't see or didn't know from our own experience?

### **Horror, evil and also humor**

Yes – the authors did very well manage to find the way how to transmit such a theme to the spectators, a way in which the horror and evil is balanced by humor and outstanding movement sequences that do not lack dynamic. Occasional imperfections concerning sometimes not very creative movement sequences counterbalances the fact that they come in the right moment and simply fit – its timing is brilliant.

Apart from dance sequences that here and there change into acrobatics and mix elements of new circus the international group of performers (Belgian Nathan Jardin, Finnish-Japanese dancer Joonas Kaakinen, Swede Knut Vikström Precht, Israeli Tom Weksler and Slovak Dano Raček) create an honest performance that is despite of its seeming superficiality very strong and rich in thought. Last but not least... it is also funny which comes in quite handy, even though it doesn't save you from unpleasant feelings.

The crucial thing for the whole performance, its perception and after all also its understanding is the final video. I will not say anything about its details because it would be of no use to rob the potential spectator of the strength that the video along with the stage movement crushes the spectator and destroys the idea of at least partial illusion about the good concealed in human character.

In some moments I have been asking myself for example – I see, three hundred foot prints, battle, a competition about who steps on others foot, who causes pain to whom, a children's version of how to amuse yourself by violating others without punishment; however after seeing the final scene I have found out that I have been

misled because it made the particular dance movements and scenes absolutely, unmistakably and intensely comprehensible; it was a very fast thought reconstruction of previous several minutes.

Some movements, for example a triumphant posture of Dano Raček with lifting hand that looked possibly bizarre at first, aroused even fear by its terrifying bizarreness afterwards. Indeed retrospectively all the scenes were extraordinarily terrifying, although at first glance the horror they contain had been left unnoticed. It was a very effective turnover of magnificent power. After all exactly this 'turnover' is one of the reasons why one should go and see the performance once more – to experience it again 'in a different way' in all of its roughness and intensity.

Despair?

To be honest shortly after the performance I felt a strong despair that any kind of activity that day is practically impossible. And this heaviness stayed inside me also for another day, let's say days. Collective Loss of Memory is one of the performances that don't cause a false pleasure and hypocritical laugh, but partially stays inside you and transforms into a very important lesson that being a human is not a gift but also a curse. Often nobody knows what can be hiding inside him – and that's what this performance deals with too.

Finally my only objection concerns in fact just the partner of the performance – Collective Loss of Memory has been made under the patronage of Israeli Embassy, which is in relation to the incidents of last months (particularly violence – although often buck-passing and called 'necessary defense') a long-lasting problem. And no matter how hard it is today to gather necessary resources or at least a support for production in all fields of culture, one should approach every single alliance such as this one with a consideration, because similar step can unnecessarily break the thought or message that it contains, simply by making it weaker. In this case it would be a big pity...

DOT504 Dance Company: Collective Loss of Memory. Directed and Choreographed by: Jozef Fruček & Linda Kapetanea. Premier: October 17 and 18, 2014, Ponec Theater, Prague.

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