

First night performance and co-production ROTE FABRIK in Zurich/ Switzerland 1994

Choreography/Dance: Béatrice Jaccard, Peter Schelling, Massimo Bertinelli

Music/Composition: Ernst Thoma, Massimo Bertinelli

Light design: François Gendre Costumes: Clarissa Herbst



'Les Somnambules' is inspired by silent movies.

Acting without being there, a deeply human trait.

To go through moments of your life without really being aware,
moments of absence.

Daydreaming away your working hours, lying awake with the angels at night.

press excerpts

"...A tissue of night fantasies, imaginary apparitions of the mind to which the three fabulous dancers give an intriguing shape..."
Nordseezeitung, Bremerhaven, Germany, October 18, 1997

"...'Les Somnambules' is about harmony and aggression, about being alone and about togetherness. Its highly sophisticated dance technique serves as the basis for really liberated dancing. This is made quite obvious by one of the few lifts the program contains: the unreal Lightness of dance..."
Neue Zeit, Graz, Austria, July 14, 1996

"...An abundance of fantastic scenes where wit and horror follow each other closely and where language becomes powerless; if you haven't seen it, you have missed something..."
Badische Zeitung, Freiburg, Germany, October 6, 1994

"...The dancing of Jaccard/Schelling/Bertinelli is tender and rough, cautious and untroubled, comical and philosophical. Their dance piece stays with you and fuels your imaginations for a long time..."
Shena, St. Petersburg, Russia, October 9, 1994

"...The company DRIFT's dance is as simple and as complicated as the human emotions. Their dance travels with a significant movement language and clear theatrical images through the night of our uncertain world at the end of the millennium. At the same time this dance is a metaphor of human existence..."
Oltre Frontiera, Chiasso, Switzerland, Jan./ Feb. 1998

"...real masters of the worlds in between... stories of dreams and nightmares, graceful yet sharp. Enthusiastic applause."
Sükkurier Ravensburg, Germany, June 18, 1998

"...Company Drift's piece was about dreams, Les Somnambules (The Sleepwalkers),
...A cross between dance and theater..."

The work is partner-intensive, with lots of contact-improve dance influence, and is so well done, and so cleverly performed that, despite its slow and shadowy beginnings, it soon draws you into the little dream world they've created. Sly, funny, intense, poignant. When this piece ends to a standing ovation -- not just for the difficult sixty minutes' work these guys put out -- but also because the audience suddenly realized when the lights came up that they'd been pulled into a whole other reality by this excellent Swiss Company Drift. Great stuff for San Diego audiences. And that's the point of Blurred Borders International Dance Festival, I imagine."

Dale Morris, San Diego Theatre Scene, San Diego / USA, May 5th 2003