

Le Devoir

Ever So Slightly: In Search of Balance

From calmness to hostility, from crazed violence to pure gentleness, we observe this micro-society struggling to go forward, ceaselessly undermined by a kind of regression derived from multiple confrontations within the group.

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Dance Review

RUBBERBANDance Group's first large-scale dance work, *Ever So Slightly* portrays, with intensity, a disoriented society forced to come to terms with the chaos it has created. In this very musical piece with its changes in tone, choreographer Victor Quijada has us follow the journey of ten young individuals who are seeking balance and gentleness but are continually overtaken by the brutality of the world and of their condition.

The members of a strange army, dressed in washed-out uniforms, rise from the ground in a delicate wave of acrobatics and contortions. With the support of two musicians on stage – Jasper Gahunia and William Lamoureux –, the dancers succeed in passing through an extensive series of atmospheres with great fluidity and suppleness. From calmness to hostility, from crazed violence to pure gentleness, we observe this micro-society struggling to go forward as it is ceaselessly undermined by a kind of regression that comes from the many confrontations within the group and the failure of solidarity among the beings who belong to it.

The performers are progressively stripped bare in powerful images. At times, they are predators and executioners, turning on each other, and at other times, companions in adversity, reconnecting and supporting each other. A magnificent deployment of lifts, virtuosic and incarnate, distinguishes these moments. The hybridization between urban dance codes and contemporary dance fine-tuned by Victor Quijada over the years through the Rubberband Method engenders spectacular sequences of movements – a language completely mastered and rendered with brio by the ten young dancers, provoking audible emotional reactions in the audience. In spite of some repetition with the recurrence of the characters' crises of panic and madness before their return to calmness, *Ever So Slightly* is impressive for the coherence achieved by the group through the many ruptures in tone imposed upon it.

Ever So Slightly

Choreography by Victor Quijada (RUBBERBANDance) in collaboration with Amara Barner, Jean Bui, Daniela Jezerinac, Sydney McManus, Dana Pajarillaga, Brontë Poiré- Prest, Jerimy Rivera, Zack Tang, Ryan Taylor, and Paco Ziel. Live music on stage: Jasper Gahunia and William Lamoureux. Presented by Danse Danse until December 8 at Théâtre Maisonneuve.