

Small explosion with glass and repeat echo

Cie Nicole Seiler
2012 creation



Credits and Support

Concept	Nicole Seiler
Choreography	YoungSoon Cho Jaquet, Nicole Seiler, Pauline Wassermann
Performance	YoungSoon Cho Jaquet, Nicole Seiler
Costumes	Claude Rueger
Light design	Stéphane Gattoni
Music	Stéphane Vecchione
Dramaturgy	Christophe Jaquet
Administration	Cristina Martinoni
Tour management	Tutu Production
Duration	70 min.
Coproduction	Théâtre Arsenic Lausanne, Théâtre de l'Octogone Pully, Cie Nicole Seiler
Support	Ville de Lausanne, Etat de Vaud, Pro Helvetia – Swiss Arts Council, Loterie Romande, SSA – Société Suisse des Auteurs, Sixt – Rent a car. Created in part in residence at the Centro per la Scena Contemporanea in Bassano del Grappa.

Full length video available on www.nicoleseiler.com

Introduction

Sound. Music. Image. It is these three elements, key to any performance, that Nicole Seiler dissects and deconstructs by way of a conceptual research that is exacting, precise, minute, surgical. After having cut the sound in Playback, then plunged the audience into darkness, obliging them to see the dance with their ears (Amauros), Nicole Seiler focuses her work on what is choreographically speaking essential: movement and its relation to sound. Abstract bodies dialogue this time with a concrete sound imagery. Faithful to her practice of engaging the spectator, she proposes a playful performance, a mirror open to various interpretations, the result of which is a physical work, an evocation and imaging of social interaction that acts as testimony to the cognitive configurations we as spectators harbor within us.

Small explosion with glass and repeat echo

The research of Nicole Seiler into the relationship between sound and image began with *Playback* (2010), a piece that functions like a jukebox rolling out the titles of songs one after the other, but without any music audible: the titles are simply projected on a screen at the back of the stage. Can an image conjure the music? Is it enough to *hear* the song?

Amauros, her next creation, proposed the opposite. It was not the absence of music but the absence of an image which stimulated the imagination and memory of the spectator. Can we see music? Are the *sounds* of dancing feet enough for us to visualize a choreography?

With *Small explosion with glass repeat echo*, the latest installation of the trilogy, Nicole Seiler focuses more pointedly on actual choreography than in the two precedent pieces; by virtue of a context most propitious for exploring movement.

It is a piece for two dancers, and presents a work of juxtaposition, between abstract movement and concrete sounds. It is the sound effects which make the movements "make sense", and vice-versa. The abstract dance makes a sudden reference to a concrete context thanks to the collage affect generated by the sound. But Nicole Seiler doesn't stop there: certain collages function by calling to mind a more mysterious and more subconscious alchemy, one more difficult to define.

This piece combines two main elements, one being the sound, the other, the choreography. The succession of gestures follows its own organic logic: each repeated movement transforms gradually and imperceptibly into another, which in turn becomes another and another... The same goes for the music, in which the sounds are heard one after the other like a DJ set; they appear, coexist, disappear to leave room for another and then reappear. It happens that the two elements experience a brutal rupture. And little by little stories take shape for each of the audience members, different for each spectator.

The essential comes from the collage of these two elements; when the sound, as if in response to an image formed by the two dancers, completes what they've created, as if in duo with them. The wealth to be found in this performance comes from the multiple modes of assembly employed: the role of each element and the relation between all the elements changes endlessly throughout the piece. At times it feels as if it is the sound that initiates the movement. Sometimes it's the opposite. At times the sound creates a reversal, with humor, between the interactions of the dancers; while at others it seems as if it's the dancers who control or produce the sounds, and then suddenly as if by magic the two elements are in unison, the sound placing the performers in a specific environment, emotional field, or situation (airport, countryside, at school). The sound may even transform the dancers into airplanes, into bells or metronomes or make appear monsters that only they can see...

This performance immerses the spectator in a total sensory experience and leads them along a psychedelic race from one place to another, from one sensation to another, from one feeling to another without ever breaking the continuity of the journey. The two dancers execute their scores upon a square of white flooring, placed in the center of the stage. It functions as a veritable flying carpet which lifts them off and carries us along with them across many territories of sensation.

Christophe Jaquet, dramaturge

Audio description

The performance *Small explosion with glass and repeat echo* was proposed from its conception to an audience of blind and partially sighted individuals. It was audio described in real time by Séverine Skierski.

The possibility to describe in real time the performance on tour is a option open to negotiation with the company.

"After the singular experience of *Amauros* (creation 2011) - which made audio description an important player in the performance - Nicole Seiler proposes today audio description in real time during her new creation *Small explosion with glass repeat echo*, for the spectator suffering from a visual handicap.

The performances of the creation were described live on the 22nd and 23rd November at the Théâtre de l'Octogone in Pully, Switzerland. A visit to the stage and exploration of the scenography and costumes was also proposed to the audience before each show. Lasting a half-hour and guided by a member of the company, it allowed the audience members to more fully grasp the scenic landscape. At the end of the performance, Séverine Skierski – audio describer - was present for a question-answer session.

If *Amauros* showed how describing dance is actually quite a serious act, the audio description of *Small explosion with glass repeat echo* seems to lead to us to question the matter further : is describing dance a lost cause?"

Séverine Skierski, audio describer

Biography Nicole Seiler

Born in 1970 in Zurich, Nicole Seiler studied dance and theater at the Scuola Teatro Dimitri in Verscio (CH), at the Vlaamse Dansacademie in Brugges (BE) and at Rudra Béjart in Lausanne (CH).

As a performer she collaborated on many different productions, with such companies as Cie Buissonnière, the Teatro Malandro, Alias Compagnie, the Cie Philippe Saire and Massimo Furlan.

She created her own company in 2002. In her artistic approach image and video play a major role. Her research into multi-media which marries dance and video, gives rise to multifaceted dance performances, videos and choreographic installations. The last few years she has created a cycle of performances centered around the relation between image and sound.

Since 2004 the company has toured internationally. In 2009 Nicole Seiler received the cultural prize for dance from the Foundation Vaudoise for Culture. Since 2010 the company has benefited from combined structural subsidies (Ville de Lausanne, Etat de Vaud, Pro Helvetia).

Projects of Compagnie Nicole Seiler :

Small explosion with glass and repeat echo (dance performance for 2 dancers, 2012, 70 min.)

Un acte sérieux (dance and multimedia performance for 2 dancers, 2012, 40 min.)

Installation pour En Corps (multimedia installation, 2012)

Amauros (dance performance for 4 dancers, 2011, 65 min.)

Tinizong (dance and multimedia performance for 2 dancers, 2010, 35 min.)

Playback (dance and multimedia performance for 6 dancers, 2010, 65 min.)

Living-room dancers (show/out-door performances and film, 2008, duration varies)

Ningyo (solo dance and multimedia performance, 2008, 60 min.)

K Two (performance after the character of *Madame K*, 2007, 15 min.)

Je m'appelle... (solo dance and multimedia performance, 2007, 11 min.)

Pixel Babes (dance and multimedia performance for 3 dancers, 2006, 64 min.)

4 clips pour aufnahmen (4 video clips, 2006, 10 min.)

Dolls / Dolls live (installation and performances, 2005, duration varies)

Lui (solo dance and multimedia performance, 2005, 35 min.)

One in a million (choreographic video, 2004, 10 min.)

Madame K (solo dance and multimedia performance, 2004, 45 min.)

Quoi? (dance and multimedia performance for 2 dancers, 2002, 30 min.)

Contact

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Tour management

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