

'D3US/X\M4CHIN4': Special lightness in new work of Fernando Belfiore/Dansmakers

Maarten Baanders

A magnificent performance full of laughter, tension and lightness, yet it sends me of into the world feeling saddened. It seems like the four women in **D3US/X\M4CHIN4** by choreographer/director Fernando Belfiore find themselves in the land of the endless possibilities. They can do everything. But do they want everything too? Can they still be themselves if they do everything?

How does it feel when every step you take drones within the earth's deepest depths? Wonderful. This is omnipotence. A fairy-tale. A dream. But is it really your footsteps evoking that drone, or are it someone else's?

Two powers carry the women away: sexual desire and the technique that makes our lives so much easier.

It is like sex holds no more secrets for these four women. They do everything. Sex to all corners. While moving like predators they crawl over the stage, seductive, superior, severe, sadistic, murderous. They seek intimacy, proximity. They really want to. Boundaries blur. They climb onto the tribune, squirming between the audience and kissing spectators. You can't go nearer than this.



Nevertheless, their game is played far away. They make a shiny and glittering show out of it, with all the rules, demands and clichés that belong to a show. Intimacy and authenticity are deeply hidden. Eroticism grows out to abominable, dishonouring scenes that have nothing to do with mutuality. The women stay behind with fearful faces and cramped bodies. Prey to join the desire with which society imposes them.

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Vacuum cleaner hose

Also with technical gadgetry they render themselves over. Humanity dreams of subjecting the world to her wishes. A device with wheels makes walking unnecessary. Noiselessly one of the women slides over the earth. A drilling machine can make flowers turn and a vacuum cleaner hose works like a microphone. Again boundaries blur: surrounded by all this technical convenience, the body of flesh and blood becomes a machine itself. The four women are lost between their own desire and the desires realised by humanity. Forceful images of what sex should be like, inventions and finds that should give even more glow to life: it is all so much. Try to find yourself back in all this.



Belfiore and his performers carried me away effortlessly in this complex and confusing experience. D3US/X\M4CHIN4 has a strange sort of lightness and humour, where the grimaces of discontent had joined seamlessly through. Luna Eggers Mats, Rozemarijn de Neve, Maria Metsalu and Jija Sohn are the perfect performers of this performance: witty, seductive, intriguing by the dedication with which they throw themselves into their play.

Photo's: Paul McGee

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