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The lacquer ballet

In the 1920ies Oskar Schlemmer (1888-1943) was the master for the stage at the Bauhaus. From the 1930ies on the defamation campaign of the Nazi Regime darkened his life. Schlemmer was listed among the so-called „degenerate“ artists. However, this did not choke his creativity.

After leaving the Bauhaus until shortly before his death he continuously developed new stage ideas and projects. Most of them unfortunately remained ideas.

We studied these works discovered that they are indeed a storehouse of ideas and got inspired to develop new stage concepts referring to Schlemmer but using the technical media of our time.

Wuppertal's paint manufacturer Herberts supported and protected Schlemmer and other defamed artists. Herberts founded a paint laboratory and declared Schlemmer to be its manager. Thus Schlemmer experimented together with other defamed artists on the effect of colours, he created a room with lacquer samples and designed a ballet that was staged within the company.

Our new stage project is inspired by the ideas for this ballet, of which unfortunately only some sketches have been handed over to posterity. Filmed in right light, high-resolution cameras are able to transform multi-colour shapes and surfaces in such a way, that the resulting „colour material“ can be transformed in real-time into a moving video scenography. On top of that, our dancers are within this video-coloured room, equipped with room sensors, thus piloting live and in a real-time the electronic music that is being generated in the process. In the „lacquer Ballet“ we apply this for other of our works proved setting to multi-coloured and multi-shaped figurines, which we developed newly according to drawings by Oskar Schlemmer.

So, we created an intermedia dance performance with several figurines. stylistic idiom and their colorfulness will lead to a moving interactive scenography, a visual as well as auditory experience of the room and the figurines moving in it.

This production can be booked alone, as well as in a double feature together with our „Mechanical Ballet“ (40 minutes). Title: „The Bauhaus Ballets“.

Data:

- Stage: min. 8m x 8m
- Stage: black dancefloor
- black curtains back (we will bring a videocanvas)
- Lights: 18 PCs, 8 Zoom-Profilers, 24 Fresnel, 6 Floods
- Sound: elektronisch interaktiv. We need a powerful Stereo-PA
- Duration: 65 min

Press:

J.U.Lensing has created with his team a multimedia performance. No genre which is not considered: Dance, sculpture, music, fashion, painting, and videoart. (...) the actors are changing between dance in slow motion, acceleration and high speed movements. The choreography seems to paint like from mind hand abstract coloured themselves permanent changing paintings on the canvas. An unforgettable ballet-euphoria: sensually, imaginatively, poetically, powerfully simply overwhelming!

WZ/ Westdeutsche Zeitung

The electronica stage makes it possible that the dancers-movements are transformed to moved colour surfaces, like a digital paint-brush. And thus conjures an increasingly fascinating spectacle on the canvas. The costumes of the figures become more and more colorful: coloured points or surfaces like colour fields dominate the skirts, breast signs and headgears. Schlemmer's subject was the human figure in the space. In this new lacquer ballet it finds an attractive variation.

RP / Rheinische Post