

DANCE

The soul of Istanbul

Charlotte De Somviele about Atmosphere of Marc Vanrunxt in deStandaard

31 October 2015

Last year, Marc Vanrunxt went to Istanbul to search for the soul of the Turkish dance scène. *Atmosphere* is the result of this encounter. Despite the title, we do not hear the beautiful song of Joy Division, what we do hear is an eclectic musical palette, ranging from a dissonant composition from Ligeti to repetitive electronics and even a dash of metal. Yes, we would like to borrow the Ipod of Marc Vanrunxt sometimes. Soprano Els Mondelaers opens the performance. She repeats the sentence 'It's alright ' for at least ten minutes as a consolation song for the public. You resist time, which slowly slips from your fingers, and then, you surrender yourself to the duration of it. What a restful feeling.

Meanwhile four dancers cross cautious the scene, which is full of confetti, just so colourful as their statement pieces from Vivienne Westwood. They go sit on the ground and petrify, whereupon they choose another spot to disappear in themselves again.

Time and space, they remain the parameters of Vanrunxt's work. It is not really about what the dancers do, but how they do it. These four search for this attention, each in their own way: the two men gracefully and controlled, the two women full surrender.

Their characters are equally different as the temporary atmospheres, which Vanrunxt creates. The beauty of it is that the choreographer does not mask their personality; you see four dancers who are searching for their own voice. Rather than classical group choreography, *Atmosphere* shows four parallel solos which unfold themselves just too independent from each other. Otherwise, Vanrunxt seeks deliberately for these cleavages.

As methodical his focus is on time and space, so dramatic is his music and light, which change every time from intensity. –*Atmosphere* is, in this way, consistent and open, and stilled and fiery at the same time. It shows that Vanrunxt and his young dancers found each other in the middle.