

WHY DANCE? THAT'S WHY! By Bertram Müller

Because today contemporary dance means more than ever poetry and concentration of life.

Because in dance body, mind and spirit are concentrated on a single moment and thus the versatility of humans can integrate holistically and enfold harmoniously.

Because the integrity, immediacy and vulnerability of dance does not qualify for superficial compromises when it comes to artistic interpretation on stage.

Because dancers dare to present themselves, stripped, as far as possible, off theatrical defences like roles, masks of character and narrations to expose their personalities, their sexualities and even their intelligence before you on the stage.

Because through years of constant practice dancers accomplish unthinkable feats of memory and performance by doing the most intricate work movements.

Because dance is generally a group creation that requires the best team play qualities and is also able to form these effectively.

Because dance shows us quite directly and in a comprehensible way the most complicated and often enough still callow ideas and conflicts of our time through a moving body.

Because it is the most primary subject of dance art to research over and over again the intimate relation of space and time, of bodies, shape and dynamics and thus enables us to comprehend the rapidly changing, multi-local and multi-temporal world in which we can live with dignity.

Because of all the live arts, only dance can rival the speed and density of image of the new digital media.

Because dance can impart the substance of the various cultural identities across borders, needing no translation.

Because to experience dance art and to dance unites us, challenges us, makes us spontaneously happy and is healthy at that.

Bertram Müller 08/07; text based on an interview with John Ashford, formerly Director of The Place London, under the title „IDEE: Defining the Undefinable“ in „Theater der Zeit“