

'To the Dance Floor!'

What is the movement I noticed first in You? What is the brand of your shirt? How much is the flight to Bangkok? Shall we go?

To the Dance Floor! is a physical story about the moments on which an old hit on a radio catches the knees and turns the kitchen to a dance floor. The piece presents dramas of the discotheque. The scream of James Brown, the knee turn of Michael Jackson and the slow dance at the end of the evening act as keys to these dramas. Within the episodes there are meetings in movement. There are strange love songs and a possibility of change in the air. All styles allowed?

choreography and concept: Maija Hirvanen

performed by: Marcus Doverud, Maija Hirvanen, Anna-Maija Terävä

light desing: Timo Ollila

production assistant: Minna Kallela

produced by: The Regional Dance Centre of South-West Finland and Maija Hirvanen



'To the Dance Floor!' is the first of Maija Hirvanen's series born out of interest towards the ethics of dance and movement. The next of the series, solo *'15 minutes Fame'*, will be premiered at Zodiak center of new dance in October 2007.

'To the Dance Floor!' is concerned about the cultural identities and questions of otherness. It considers gender, race, age, belief systems, nationality, social and economical statuses as part of the operation of dance interaction. The piece creates counter cultural statements, which aim to reconsider cultural stereotypes and through this process, travel towards general human togetherness. This togetherness tries to manifest itself as emphatic relations with environment, being-in-the-world, action, thinking and in the case of *'To the Dance Floor!'*, other performers and the viewers. What is in search are physical moments, where two pairs of eyes meet with a mutual interest and respect. These meetings form the inner core of the piece, which draws from a mix of pop culture references and performance and dance history.

According to Emmanuel Levinas, we look like we touch. Through its visuality and action, *'To the Dance Floor!'* reaches to some of this starting point. It is being constantly argued and emphasized that we live in a world dominated by visual culture, a culture of fast definitions. *'To the Dance Floor!'* uses this claim and takes a further look at it; eventually the dance on the floor will be looked as a whole sensory experience.

The thinking behind *'To the Dance Floor!'* is in relation to the contemporary visual culture theories as well as theories on contemporary art and popular media. The aesthetics of the piece presents movement in its different forms, as funny, grotesques, intelligent, linguistic, spiritual, beautiful. Body is always political, social, poetic and existential at the same time. This is an important point in the formation of the mechanics and content of *'To the Dance Floor!'*.

Duration.

app. 1 hour

Medias. Dance and physical art, video projection, spoken text, audio text and sound, popular music.

Key words. Physical art, dance as contemporary art and commentary, dance and performance, dance and theater, dance and media, dance and philosophy, performativity (as Butler, Austin, Auslander, late Phelan, Carlson etc.), gaze, the collective/private experiences of dance.