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Dublin Dance Festival 2016 'Magie Nouvelle' trips through the light fantastic

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Magie Nouvelle by Cie 14:20

Clement Deball

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Rating: ★★★★★

The Irish premiere of French company, Cie 14:20's production "Magie Nouvelle" could very well get lost amidst [Dublin Dance Festival 2016](#)'s bigger and more glamorous names. Which would be a shame. Whilst of the same consistently high standard maintained by the performances throughout the festival, it's not [dance](#) in the strictest sense. In essence, "Magie Nouvelle" is a magic show, often feeling more akin to a circus or street performance. Yet "Magie Nouvelle" is stunning in its simplicity, infused with an ease and rigour, along with a beguiling and disarming charm that captivates from the outset.

Containing three individual sequences, "Magie Nouvelle" opens with the enigmatic "Ellipses 30," choreographed and performed by Aragorn Boulanger. With haunting tenderness "Ellipses 30" elevates the simple to the level of the profound. Opening up a multi-dimensional, twilight space between the real and the dreamed, and the dreaming within the dreamed, "Ellipses 30" does

indeed appear to play with the laws of physics, where time and space are troubled. Boulanger is here, there, everywhere and nowhere, in this incredibly simple yet powerful piece which lingers long in the memory and is unquestionably the standout sequence of the trio.

Immediately followed by “Variations Pour Piano et Polystyrène,” this beautiful realised sequence opens with a live performance of a deeply evocative, original piano composition, written and performed by composer Madeleine Cazenave. Presently juggler Étienne Saglio materialises and commences to dazzle with a sheet of white polystyrene. What follows is an incredibly sensitive and delightfully realised dance duet that is a sheer joy to behold. Saglio again takes centre stage with the final sequence, “Étoiles,” this time juggling spheres of light in the dark as shooting stars, comet trails and constellations emerge. It all has the feel of a fireworks display, or of the aurora borealis minus the colour, wild and beautiful to behold.

There’s certainly a question around whether there were technical errors or deliberate mishaps on the night, but ultimately neither distracted too much from the experience unfolding onstage. Indeed, it would not be an understatement to say that “Magie Nouvelle” gives lessons in theatricality that many theatre practitioners could benefit from. Perhaps its most endearing quality is its almost mindful, meditative stillness which asks what's your rush? What's your hurry? The history of performance is littered with lesser known performances which imprinted themselves irretrievably on the consciousness of the audience, passed on through word of mouth by the select handful who happened to be there and influencing future generations. “Magie Nouvelle” might well be one such performance. It might be magic, or it might just all be a trick of the light. But, oh, what a sublime trick it is.

“Magie Nouvelle” by Cie 14:20 runs as part of the Dublin Dance Festival 2016 at The [Project Arts Centre](#) until May 28th

Doors open 8.00 p.m.

Tickets: €22.00 or €18.00 concession

For further information, visit [Dublin Dance Festival](#) or [Project Arts Centre](#)



Chris O'Rourke

Theatre Examiner

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