

## Garden: Nut and the choreographic theatre

by Francesca Audisio - Krapp's Last Post ([www.klpteatro.it](http://www.klpteatro.it))  
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When we go to the theatre we generally choose what to see according to our personal preferences or to a special interest in one genre or another: Prose? Dance? Experimental Theatre or better Dance Theatre?

Whatever our decision, performances are generally lodged firmly in specific genres that we are used to and which act as classifications in our mindsets. Not that this is a limitation - not at all. But what happens when we find ourselves faced with a performance which isn't a performance, which is dance but not all the way, which has choreography and breathing but isn't Dance Theatre, where there are no words but the body speaks a language of its own?

What happens is that, for once, what we are witnessing is poetry. This is what compagnia **Nut** attempts (and manages) to achieve, in their latest work "Garden", presented at Teatro Out Off in Milan last week.

The performance, or better choreographic research (their own definition) is a study of harmony and its flow, of composition as a musical and dynamic process.

Four men of our time, three men and a woman, undertake a journey between death and resurrection, search and retrieval, loss and solitude. The dancers Barbara Geiger and Franco Reffo, flanked by the two actors Alessio Calciolari and Lorenzo Piccolo, bring to life to an itinerary in which bodies collide and meet, roughly but without violence and with lucid, authentic honesty and truth.

They speak of the objective of this work as being a piece of meditative and dramaturgical research into the contemporary human being who, looking inside him/herself where the eye no longer sees, finds him/herself searching for a new way of moving in the world. This is an intention that could have proved to be excessive and excessively cerebral but the hypothesis remains hypothesis, given that the piece has all the freshness and beauty of free bodies, conjuring up a multitude of images and suggestions, bodies that bring us emotion and transport us into different worlds. Not necessarily the worlds indicated by their creators but no less interesting because of this.

The problem is that describing a similar work becomes difficult, perhaps even misleading and risky, because its beauty lies in the very freedom of the spectator to find him/herself breathing with the performers with no frame of reference and thus able to enjoy the evocative power of the images on stage.

Barbara Geiger's solo is intriguing, revealing a naked back, sweat-covered and strong, evoking animals and strange figures, creating a moment of expectation and stasis, before reuniting with the other performers in a chaos where each one becomes part of a whole and complexity is the only way of going forward.

A performance to be seen.

### **GARDEN**

with: Barbara Geiger, Franco Reffo, Alessio Calciolari, Lorenzo Piccolo  
duration: 55 min

**Seen at Milan, Teatro Out Off, 16 November 2012**

[link](#)

translation: Patricia Hampton