



Ilotopie

Water Fools: a grand aquatic spectacle

(Fous de Bassin: un grand spectacle aquatique)

An allegory of society floats on the lake

A nocturnal spectacle presented by Ilotopie

The black surface of the Lower Lake, splendid setting, instantly transmits the dreamlike dimension of "L'acqua forte Mantovana" (Water fools in Mantova), drawing the spectators installed on its banks into an allegorical voyage into the structures of society.

The show by the French company Ilotopie, presented on Thursday night, is best seen through the eyes of the first character who enters (or should we say floats), the only one, and not by chance, who stays put and watches what happens.

The man, the protagonist, reads a newspaper under a street lamp and from time to time glances at the everyday life going on around him.

Later on, the "daily" catches fire and in the dream everything explodes. Yes, because the observer's head also starts to burn. The spark which has enflamed his thoughts is the same one which attacks his vision of daily routine firmly moored to the lamp post. But if all that is left of his daily paper are ashes, this blazing fire has opened a curtain on truth.

And so it is that on the lake's surface plays out a competition between individuals with two boatmen who confront each other, as well as a raft on which is mounted an enormous water wheel which reflects, by the athletic effort of the actor, the hard labour of advancing. A beacon lights up to stupor and applause on centre stage, an immense bed: the sleeper chooses to stop and anchor her great dream in the safe neighbourhood of a tree. The chariot of the king goes by, the king naked, white, immobile and unattackable, accompanied by a fool and numerous pawns: this is sparkling power which lays down its distances to the people. And almost in darkness, immediately afterwards, comes a boat which recalls the thorny point of the story, the suffering, the victories, the deprivations.

The fleetest craft is that of progress, with large vertically turning blades: she criss-crosses the scene and makes waves which shake the protagonist, still lit by his burning brain. A wave of fireworks lights up the night and brings the dream to a close. In the eyes of the large audience are left the colours, the light and the apparent and irresistible nonchalance with which these ilotopians have painted their story. The sound support was perfect and the choice to stage the show in a wide open space allowed good visibility for all the spectators. A sparkle for each of those lucky ones who had filled the world of the lake's embankments.

E.C.

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