

A balancing act between stage and screen

After her highly acclaimed cinema debut „Dis°Dance“, Karen Bößer follows up with „S3NSE“. The Düsseldorf-based choreographer now presented her movement study as visual mediation in the Bambi.



The dance film project „S3NSE“ encourages viewers to activate their senses. Photo: SUSANNE DIESNER

BY CLAUDIA HÖTZENDORFER

DUSSELDORF | Bringing performative dance to the big screen is no easy task. With her second film „S3NSE“, Karen Bößer manages the balancing act between an art form made for the stage and an unusual visual implementation for the cinema screen. The choreographer, who lives in Düsseldorf, has now presented „S3NSE“ (engl. for senses) in the Bambi cinema. She couldn't have given her film a better title, because Bößer actually manages to activate the senses and encourage her audience to trust them more.

Bößer allowed camerawoman Susanne Diesner to take unusual and surprising perspectives during the recording. The audience follows two dancers, a woman and a man, as they move through different settings. Everyone keeps to themselves, even in the moments they share with each other, they keep a certain distance from each other. Nevertheless, the choreographer manages to create intimacy precisely by doing this. Diesner's camera always stays very close - sliding under the arms of the dancers or lying on the floor and looking up at them.

Landscape shots with birdsong in the background alternate with performances in urban space. While the movements of the two outside are more fluid and blend in with the surroundings, the dancers react to the cramped spaces and concrete walls with staccato-like sequences, silent screams and recurring movements.

Bößer had already convinced audiences and critics last year with her cinema debut Dis°Dance. In her debut, the choreographer processed experiences from the lockdown in the dancing home office. With „S3NSE“ she widens the view again and invites you to get involved with the environment. To experience nature with all your senses and - from an artistic point of view - to interact with what is on offer without a lot of equipment. A steel construction on the banks of the Rhine can also become a stage, as can a stairwell or a park at night. Her narrative pace is meditative. You have to get involved with the images, feel into the dancers and listen carefully to the mixture of nature sounds and music.

Information about the film and inquiries about further screening dates at: www.karen-boesser-projects.com.