

IN JAPAN THEY WEAR MASKS

The Vienna-based Japanese Akemi Takeya presented her new piece “So What!” The idea for the dancer’s new opus flashed up in front of the mirror when she encountered her own reflection. As common as it is unique. One look back, and then valiantly looking forward. “So What!” Takeya chose the ironical shoulder shrug to name her performance which premiered at “ImPulsTanz”. Confronting her self was not easy for the artist who was born 1961 in Aomori/North Japan. “When I came to Europe I was amazed how self-centred people were. Always I, I, I.” In Japan one wears a mask, hiding the inner self. On the other hand, since her early days in Vienna in 1991 she had been heavily thrown back onto her self. “I used to work completely alone in my solo choreographies. My only communication partner was the camera in front of which I rehearsed.”

Up to now, Takeya has staged ten pieces. Now she has resolved at last to study the language properly. “She’s arrived”, says Marc Weiser. The musician collaborated intensively in Takeya’s new programme together with the video artist Lillevan (they form the multimedia band “Rechenzentrum” from Berlin). “But there’s a lot of myself in there, the music is his, but I provided the material”, she states. The video level works similarly. Images from Takeya’s memory archives processed by Lillevan. Together with her own texts, dance and performance, the fragments are used to create scenes from an artistic biography.

With five she wanted to become a pianist, but her father was against it. “In Japan, the woman has little to say. First it’s the father who decides, then the husband. I had to leave in order to find my own way.” She financed her manifold studies herself. Her look back in “So What!” also signals a new beginning. The spiral which she eagerly scribbled at the beginning of her work serves as visualisation: According to one’s point of view, it seems to be turning right or left. Right means being open, receiving energy from outside; left goes deep inside, to one’s innate power. She wants to show something to the audience, “but I also know what I don’t want to show”. Dr

Takeyas “So What!”, August 11, Kasino

Die Presse 08-10-2006
www.impulstanz.com