

Homage to Nijinsky

Les Siècles | François-Xavier Roth

Compagnie Association du 48 | Dominique Brun



One of the great artistic figures of the early twentieth century, Vaslav Nijinsky changed the history of dance with his choreography for the Ballets Russes, creating essential pieces of musical modernity that shook the audiences of Paris.

Homage to Nijinsky re-creates these legendary choreographies: Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring*, which caused a scandal at its premiere in 1913, together with Debussy's *L'Après-midi d'un faune* and *Jeux*, in the 100th anniversary of Debussy's death.

Drawing on a multitude of sources from the period, choreographer **Dominique Brun** has re-created Nijinsky's original choreography. Her version stands unique from those that have gone before it in the last century; the visceral and primitive qualities that shocked audiences over one hundred years ago ever present in these compelling pieces.

Performing the scores for Nijinsky's choreography is **François-Xavier Roth's Les Siècles**. With a vast period-instrument collection at its disposal, including many of the original instruments played by musicians of the Ballets Russes in the 1910s, the ensemble's flexible and historically informed approach delivers the authentic accompaniment to this immersive experience of musical Paris in the 1910s.

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Reviews from Paris, October 2016

[Philippe Noisett, Les Echos](#)

"Suffice to say that this is a bold undertaking to want to revive these works... The most beautiful part of this tribute... lies in this space in between, in buried memories and dreamlike movements.

Brun doesn't pretend as if this whole body of movement really once existed. She interprets, hesitates, changes. In the end, this evening is at once a revisited history of this dance, and a contemporary look at it – her own."

[Artistikrezo.com](#)

"It must be said that Brun's reconstructions set themselves apart because they allow you to understand why, one century ago, the audience at the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées was shocked by these creations.

Brun is not alone in reviving Nijinsky, let alone the Rite of Spring. But more so than in other versions, she revives the raw energy and the animal savagery of these pieces which caused the scandal [at the time]."

[Financial Times 4*](#)

"In both cases the unusual set-up of the Philharmonie turned out to be an asset... The orchestra is level with the dancers instead of being squeezed into a pit; both are given equal prominence, and the visual conversation is compelling."

"The sensuality of the two Debussy scores used by Nijinsky was beautifully rendered by Les Siècles, an ensemble specialising in period instruments. Notes seemed to linger in the air, accentuating the slow, frieze-like choreography for Afternoon of a Faun, reconstructed from Nijinsky's score."

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