

JOYFUL AND SPONTANEOUS DUET

DANCE

Pauline de Groot and Linda Forsman : "Consistency of Air".
Seen in : Het Veem Theater, Amsterdam, 9th November.

By Jan Baart

'Pure dance, nothing more and nothing less', reads the announcement on the program. 'Nothing else is needed' could have been added, in view of the convincing result of the Dutch-Swedish program "consistency of Air" of Pauline de Groot and Linda Forsman. One of the founding members of the Windwitches in Stockholm (1977) and working as a soloist dancer since 1981, the Swedish dancer, Linda Forsman is not known yet in our country, but her quality is unquestionable.

Pauline de Groot, one of the founders of the modern dance in our country, began her dance career in the U.S.A. Some twenty five years ago, as a dancer, choreographer and teacher, she introduced her version of the abstract modern dance in this country. This led to a Pauline de Groot school, in the form of an official institution for modern dance (since 1976). At the same time, she has, not always continuously, but surely unflinchingly continued to develop her own dance career; as a soloist, in duet form and with a group. Her solos laid the foundation for a Dutch tradition in the field of modern dance, around 1970.

With her group work, which was perhaps too often set up with her students, she took charge of a special event in the field of contact improvisation; with Yellow Whale, an international project in which Dutch, American and English dancers took part.* In her collaborative duets, Pauline de Groot has revealed her most unexpected facets. Through the mutual challenge and stimulation and through joining forces in the dance her natural somewhat introverted expression would often gain a more expressive character and thus impart a wider dynamic to her dancing. In her semi improvised project with dancer Julyen Hamilton this culminated to a high point in the last ten years of her dance career. In "Consistency of Air", the new duet project with the younger Swedish Linda Forsman, there is a new high point; a great, mature dancer and a smaller quicksilver colleague. The two dancers retain their own characters; by their choreographic and mental tuning both styles are coloring beautifully into one atmosphere. Harmony and alertness define the total hue, and yet there is a provocative temperament and a meticulous sharpness in details.

It however definitely remains a duet project. Even so, Pauline de Groot may add this to her account. She is no more in her steadfast twenties, but beside the many colors and facets that accompany a silver dance career* it is a pleasure to see her spontaneity and joy of movement.

* notes translation;

* Yellow Whale, 1981, choreographed piece, with Dutch, English and American dancers. Festival Improvisation, 1986, improvisation with Dutch, English, American, South African and Italian dancers and musicians.

* Silver, the color of twenty five year celebration.