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Review by Marie Baudet

The frenetic race of *HERO%*

Dance Eric Domeneghetty, in Karine Ponties' new solo, flirts with the circus

Two slightly oblique walls, meeting almost at a right angle, further shrink the already small stage of Théâtre de la Vie. They demarcate the set, where for almost one hour, and without respite, Karine Ponties' *HERO%* comes alive. Both generic and unique, this hero wears a red costume beneath his sombre suit and crisp white shirt. Basically a classic specimen, but also an archetype, of all the superheroes in comic books, on screen, and even in video games, embodied by Eric Domeneghetty.

But as a dancer and actor – alone on stage – he plays both: the compliant ordinary man and the superman who fights countless battles. Somewhere between a desire to please and a willingness to resist lies the paradox of an era in which heroes abound while asserting their humanity.

Opening up to what eludes us

This is also the terrain explored by Karine Ponties and David Monceau, co-creators of *HERO%*. Her choreography and his music, combined with Guillaume Toussaint Fromentin's space-sculpting lighting effects render this new creation by the Dame de Pic Dance Company a 3D excerpt from a comic book, where hesitation, stubbornness and resignation collide.

For this new solo, the choreographer notably found inspiration in Martin Arnold's *Fast Film*, which she notes, "is full of failures, jolts, short-circuits; gear and rhythm changes that cause varying temporalities, and open us up to what eludes us, in spite of ourselves. In this way it can become absurd, dramatic, fantastic".

Discrepancies and excessiveness

True to an aesthetic she has developed over several years—hybrid, questioning dance, never narrative though gushing with bubbles of narrative—Karine Ponties manages to affirm and infuse her choreography with a tenderness bordering on irony for humankind, its blunders and hidden secrets.

In a frenetic race that includes a dizzying array of visual materials, incessant discrepancies and stubborn excessiveness, racing back and forth between being and appearing to be, *HERO%* flirts with the circus to deliver a breath-taking and absurd adventure. Epic, fun and transformative.