

Dance: Première in Barcelona of '7 for a Secret never to be told'

## Wim Vandekeybus in the Land of Superstitions

*One for Sorrow*

*Two for Joy*

*Three for a Girl*

*Four for a Boy*

*Five for Silver*

*Six for Gold*

*Seven for a Secret never to be told...*

Wim Vandekeybus conceived his new performance with this Irish rhyme as starting point. The numbers in the rhyme refer to the number of magpies seen by those who believe in the signs of destiny (...).

*“Even though, personally, I'm not really superstitious,”* explains the choreographer, *“I am fascinated by the manner by which people give a sense to the events in their lives.”*

Starting with this rhyme he has thus developed, with his dancers, a series of seven sequences evoking the seven words which are used: two emotions, the two sexes, two precious metals, and a secret. Two characters link the different sequences. The first is the magpie-man, a good luck or bad luck bird, trigger of actions and emotions. Carlos de Haro Flores, his face masked from beginning to end, gives him a dimension at the same time worrying, funny or touching, depending on the sequence. Next to him, John Campbell is the rational man, stranger to this strange world. At first he tries to chase the bird. Then he accepts, little by little, to approach it, to see beyond himself. But when he is invited to enter the truth machine, where one becomes what one could have been, he comes out as himself.

Some will take this as proof that he feels at ease with himself, others will conclude that he lacks imagination. Because next to him, his playmates are transformed: frog, fish, Siamese twins, sausage or trash bag... everything is possible in the dream world of Wim Vandekeybus.

With the passing of the sequences one sees young women whose paths cross while never meeting each other, young people moving on music by Arno, giant feathers falling like threats from the sky, a man who burns himself on contact with a golden woman, very human birds, etc.

Fascinating, magnificent images, admirably presented by an inspired choreography and remarkable performers, such as Lieve Meeussen and Rasmus Olme, already familiar from the Vandekeybus universe. All the others work with him for the first time and the choreographer has, with Nordine Benchorf, Lorenza Di Calogero, Orlando Ortega Gonzalez, Céline Perroud and Isabelle Schad, high-level performers, capable of the most incredible figures, defying all laws of balance.

And if the première in Barcelona still suffered from a few long moments, the continuing tour should bring it to Brussels at the top of its form.

Jean-Marie Wynants

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