

Wee/Francesco Scavetta

Choreographer and dancer Francesco Scavetta leads the dance company Wee together with Gry Kipperberg. Wee was established in Oslo in 1999 and has become one of the leading companies in Norway. Wee toured through Italy, Croatia, Cuba, France, Colombia, Venezuela, Estonia, Argentina, UK, Mexico, Slovenia, Serbia, Macedonia, Bulgaria and Austria.

Scavetta's theatricality has often been associated with the atmosphere of a dream or with a playful world of a child: strange, funny, poetic and, at the same time, surprising. The performances created change in format and aesthetic: from the delicate memories of "Daddy always wanted me to grow a pair of wings" (1998) to the complex use of performance technology in "Live*" (2002), co-produced by the Biennale of Venice. "Live*" won the first prize at 30° Edition of the International Competition for Electro-acoustic Music of Bourges/France. The latest projects, "Hey dude, let's stick around a bit longer this time" and "And I just stood there, watching the sky and the people below" have their conceptual starting point in the theme of "consciousness" and have a different unconventional dramaturgical structure.

The core of the research has always been to deal with fragility and paradox, epiphany and dream, empathy and surprise, avoiding narrative and physical cliché, questioning reality and identity with humoristic disbelief.

Born in Salerno (IT), Scavetta studied at the National Academy of Dance of Rome, graduated in Theatre and Performing Arts and postgraduated in Sciences of Communication. He collaborated with Anne Theresa De Keersmaeker/Rosas, Giorgio Rossi, Dominique Dupuy, Adriana Borriello, Lans Gries and Bernardo Bertolucci.

A surprised body

In the last years, Scavetta has been holding a teaching project, titled "A surprised body", based on release technique and contact improvisation and influenced by his experience as a dancer and choreographer, and by his practice of tai chi chuan. The series of workshops started in 2005 in Norway, and continued with workshops in Italy, Croatia, Cuba, France, Colombia, Venezuela, Estonia, Argentina, UK, Holland, Republic of San Marino, Austria, Finland, India and Russia, often within international festivals or in collaboration with Academies.

Notes by Francesco Scavetta

The first part of the work concentrates on centering and gravity through floor work, tai chi chuan and other exercises focusing on awakening our awareness and sensitivity. Harmonizing the movement with our breathing, we will release contractions in the joints, allowing the sense of gravity to be a constant part of our awareness. The aim is to let the movement cross freely throughout the body, with isolation in the limbs.

We will work on creating antagonists to our movement, to explore the suspension in falling or the extension in reaching, to be able to widen the transformations of the central body and the shifts in the dynamics. The aim is a body more focused on reacting, than on acting. More on receiving, than on doing. I am getting more and more interested in the process of "learning", in the different way of articulating the transmission of information. The mental understanding is not necessarily a "physical" understanding. My aim is to direct the attention to the "learning process": to question how to learn "how to learn".