

‘Weak Dance Strong Questions’, The Observer, England, 4th October 2001

Weak Dance Strong Questions ICA, London SW1

Jonathan Burrows can never be dull, however hard he tries. His latest duet, ‘Weak Dance Strong Questions’, is designed to test us all. He performs with Jan Ritsema, a Dutch drama director who decided to dance in his fifties, and who seems totally self-absorbed. All they have in common is a shared sense of purpose: they improvise in silence for about an hour, sometimes doodling geriatrically, at others behaving like boys in a playground.

Burrows is taut, clear in his directions; Ritsema is the opposite. Burrows is the one who makes the signals, develops the movement riffs. It's like watching a courtship in which an egomaniac barely notices the proposals being put to him. So why do we watch something that will clearly have no resolution? The weak answer is that we do and we don't: attentions wander and return, refreshed by the joint journey.

Jann Parry