

Dulcinea's Lament: Mystical Duo, Comic Duo

BY SYLVIE ST-JACQUES

Dulcinée Langfelder defies categories and genres, and delights in confusing those who need to label their interlocutor. With the fabulous show *Victoria* following her like a shadow around the world for the past ten years, it's a tall order to continue surprising us.

In *Dulcinea's Lament*, a new multidisciplinary show she created with the collaboration of Alice Ronfard, she offers us a quest for self-knowledge that is as personal as it is open to the world. The work is the fruit of lengthy research, inspired by her travels and her personal journey. It's an absolutely unique and captivating work, in the image of this curious, funny and illuminated artist, who performs her scenic miracles as though they were simple charades.

But don't let her clownish side trick you about the depth of her talent and the demanding nature of her approach. Here Dulcinea the comedienne, the dancer, the multimedia artist, becomes Dulcinea del Toboso, Don Quixote's invisible muse, who was robbed of her identity by our collective unconscious.

The Lady is well accompanied by her team of technicians, acting, dancing and singing with her on stage between changes of décor. These talented male performers transform themselves into horses or dance the Sardane without ever stumbling.

Captivating

We're immediately spellbound by Langfelder's singular universe, as she effortlessly goes from stand-up comedy to penetrating the feminine mystique surrounding the character of Dulcinea del Toboso. She evokes Parvati, Kuan Yin, Marilyn Monroe and others through ingenious video effects (in mega low-tech), punchy texts, animated film and self-deprecating humour.

As in *Victoria*, Langfelder uses technology in a subtle and intelligent way, to create magic on stage – projections on moving sheets, shadow play illustrating windmills, and claymation to tell the story of yin and yang.

In less than an hour and a half, she informs us about feminine myths through the most famous of muses, Dulcinea del Toboso. Incarnating (in black lace) the absent heroine, Langfelder sets the facts straight. With her Spanish accent and Diva dignity, Dulcinea declares she wasn't a whore. Through her, we traverse history, from antiquity to September 11, 2001. A journey punctuated by smiles, laughter and wonderment.

We hope *Dulcinea's Lament* enjoys as long a life as its predecessor, *Victoria*. And long live Dulcinea, with her irresistible humour and insatiable curiosity.