

MEDIA RELEASE

Level 5, 10 Hickson Road The Rocks
Sydney NSW 2000 Australia
Phone 61 2 8248 6500 Fax 61 2 8248 6599
sydneyfestival.org.au



Fase

Four Movements to the Music of Steve Reich

AUSTRALIAN EXCLUSIVE

Rosas, Belgium



Photo: *Fase* © Herman Sorgeloos

"A stunning image of daring within order and turbulence within calm."

Village Voice

"A choreographer who makes you think and feel at the same time and who makes you conscious of both processes is rare. Anne Teresa de Keersmaeker ... turns out to be a member of that special breed."

The New York Times

A seminal piece in the evolution of contemporary dance, *Fase* was first staged by acclaimed choreographer **Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker** in 1982. Set to four pieces by American composer **Steve Reich** and danced by De Keersmaeker herself, it has cast its spell over generations of audiences.

A profound interplay between minimalist music and movement, bodies and light, *Fase* artfully combines delicacy and chaos, simplicity and complexity. The hour-long minimalist dance, consisting of three duets and one solo work, is considered to be the starting point of the contemporary dance movement that developed in Flanders during the 1980s.

In his compositions, Steve Reich allows his tones to gradually shift in rhythm and melody and between instruments. The same phase-shifting principle is applied to the choreography. Using repetition to an almost hallucinatory effect, the dancers whirl and spin in interlocking patterns to repetitive loops and phases of sound. The purely abstract movements are executed in unison so they appear almost mechanical, yet their effect is also deeply personal.

In her choreography, De Keersmaeker explores the relationship between music and dance and aims to articulate the basic principles of the musical composition rather than allowing the dance to simply illustrate the music. The choreography of De Keersmaeker's earliest work is indicative of her style – a structured study in pattern.

In an interview with the New York Times, Steve Reich says his "jaw dropped" when he saw De Keersmaeker's work for the first time. He had known of her since the early 1980s but it wasn't until a revival of *Fase* came to New York in 1999 that he saw her perform.

"Of all the choreography done to my music, this was by far the best thing I'd seen ... it was all analogous to the music. On an emotional and psychological level I felt I'd learned something about my own work." said Reich.

After the successful reception of *Fase*, De Keersmaeker founded her own dance company in 1983, Rosas. By the end of the decade, she had not only made a significant impact on the international stage but also

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paved the way for a number of contemporary artists including Wim Vankeybus, Jan Fabre, Alain Platel and later Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui.

Fase is a chance to witness – and be moved by – a history-making piece performed by one of dance’s most inventive players.

Choreographed by **Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker**
Danced by **Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker and Tale Dolven**
Music by **Steve Reich**
Created with **Michele Anne De Mey (Piano phase, Clapping Music) and Jennifer Everhard (Come Out)**

Co-presented with Sydney Opera House.

Where Drama Theatre, Sydney Opera House

When 9-11 January at 7.30pm
Latecomers will not be permitted

Duration 70 minutes (no interval)

Price Priority entry \$79
A Reserve \$69-62

Bookings Sydney Festival on 1300 856 876
sydneyfestival.org.au/fase

