

# THE MUSIC IS EMBODIED IN CASSIEL GAUBE'S HEAD AND BODY, BUT REMAINS INAUDIBLE TO US

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The young choreographer Cassiel Gaube has us swooning, but it's nothing to do with his cool looks. His Farmer Train Swirl-étude has us going mad with longing for the beat.

After Gaube graduated from P.A.R.T.S. in 2016 he went to Paris and New York in order to get the hang of the moves, grooves and attitude of house dance. This style turned out to be a hybrid mix of salsa, hip-hop, tap dance and signature steps. Spectators of Gaube's brief performance receive a floor plan so they can follow the way the dance transforms, as explained by the artist himself at the start of the show. The explanation is rather technical: Gaube's Étude is a project, he explains, an exercise in which he explores the expressive possibilities of house music.

He runs rings around us. More than just a dance-technical experiment, Farmer Train Swirl-étude is also a game that Gaube plays with the audience. He begins in total silence on an otherwise empty dancefloor. His movements are smooth and repetitive. Initially, he maintains a static position, occupying no more than one square metre. Then, gradually, he starts making his way across the dancefloor, linking new series of steps - from classic pas-de-bourrées to jumping jacks.

Something strange happens as we watch this performance. In the absence of thumping music, the popular movement idiom takes on somewhat of a cerebral, holy-abstract character, which forces us to look for new meaning. The music is embodied in Gaube's head and body, while remaining inaudible for the rest of us. It makes us feel uneasy. Our own bodies are begging to hear the beat, but Gaube doesn't give us what we want. First, he forces us to take on a better and different view. It's strange how 'difficult' that is. Such an accessible dance style, associated with the context of fun and clubbing, suddenly becomes 'highbrow' art form - and in this case also the art of delaying gratification.

Finally the beat fades in and the wave of relief is almost palpable. What was hard work before has turned into fun, even though Gaube is doing exactly the same thing. Exactly the same series of steps glide into one another, but this time we are granted a feeling of effortless pleasure.