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Hanging by a thread

By Khushali P Madhwani, Bangalore Mirror Bureau | Apr 21, 2014, 08.11 PM IST



In this production, for 50 minutes, Julie Nioche, a spider-man-like choreographer showcases her moves hanging on a rope from the ceiling

Julie Nioche is suspended in air with the help of pulleys and cables; swaying along side at different paces are weights and counter-weights. Amidst this spectacle Nioche begins to perform her dance, *Nos Solitudes*. For the next 50 minutes she remains up in the air and down below the audience are spellbound — and exploring the universe, their life and their dreams, alongside Nioche, but in their own way. "The suspended body has an entirely different relationship to space and to gravity itself, changing the experience of solitude in a new, moving frame of reference," says Nioche.

Nioche, from Paris, brings to Bangalore, *Nos Solitudes* (in association with the *D'Individus en Mouvements Engages*) — a continuous free fall in which a woman's body is suspended in space — triggering mind boggling dance movements.

In *Nos Solitudes*, the dance teeters towards scenic metaphor, inviting the spectator inside the suspended state. "This is more about having the spectator connect to their own dreams of flying than me trying to impress people by my physical performance," she says.

The piece encourages the spectator to listen to him/ herself in this airborne work — like stepping off a cliff into the void. "Trust your gut; go forward."

Nos Solitudes came to Nioche when she was in India in 2009. Conceptualising and creating took time, she says. "Sometimes, I fear that I might fall, because it's not up to me." But practising everyday for the last one year has boosted her confidence. "You need to be strong to find your gravity in yourself," says this Parisian who always wanted to hang by ropes and be able to move up in the air on her own. "And when I am up there, losing weight, and connecting with music and light — literally hanging on a rope — it is bliss," she concludes.

Nos Solitudes, Chowdiah Memorial Hall, Apr 22, 730 pm