

# The proud and the fiery

**Flamenco** Bettina Castaño and Murat Coskun point to cultural land with feet, drum and a show full of tempo. Their variety is as multifaceted as the dance itself.

BY CHRISTOPH PFISTER

**Lindenberg** It counts as the intangible cultural heritage of humanity, is synonymous of Spain: flamenco. Song, instrumental performance and dance melt into a unique synthesis of the arts. Even if Bettina Castaño and Murat Coskun only pick out single elements, their dance and rhythm explosion is, a worthy prelude for the Chapeau Kulturtag. The pacy show thrilled and fascinated the audience. The basic pattern, the strict rhythm is the centre of the superb performance.

Hard strikes on the wooden floor from stamping and tapping the special dance shoes, in pelting staccato, and then effectively placed single strikes set a contrast to the round dance figures. Moves then developed in a smooth and flowing manner, suddenly became strictly tense, a rhythmic pulsing of ruffled, gathered skirts, forming the close-to-earth solo dance with its – as opposed to ballet – downward impulses. Soft forms excitingly change into statuesque dance figures.

Sometimes moving in a flash, sometimes softly developed, stage-filling then filling the smallest space: Bettina Castaño plays off her internationally renowned mastery in a genuine way – with the unapproachable distance of the ‘proud Spanish lady’, sublime in immensely complex traditional figures created in aesthetic perfection, with a southern vitality and strong oriental roots which revive traditions reaching as far as the Romans.



(photo: Christoph Pfister)

Sometimes as quick as lightning, sometimes smooth, sometimes stage-filling, sometimes filling a small space: Bettina Castaño dances with her feet the equivalent to what Murat Coskun plays on his drum.

She thrills audiences with the wonderful interaction with Murat Coskun and his drums. His multifaceted percussion, performed with tangible passion and verve fires on the dance rhythms and becomes an independent kaleidoscope of the traditional Turkish frame drum with an almost endless spectrum of expressional possibilities.

Significantly removed from the fine rhythmic line, whisked away into delicate, magical atmospheric soundscapes, and furious theatre thunder. Refreshing variety, independent, thrilling interpretations, moulded from music and dance. Facets of flamenco: surprising, convincing, creative, connecting cultures and genres.