

Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

Colorful Romp in 'Le p'tit bal'

Sarah Elgart · Wednesday, March 26th, 2014

I stumbled on *Le p-tit bal* the other day while searching for new, as yet unseen (by me) dance media, and was surprised to learn that this sweet little fantasy film is – as per IMDb – from way back in 1995. Written, directed, choreographed, and starring Philippe Decouflé with help from Pascale Houbin and Annie Lacou and a song composed by Robert Nyel and Gaby Verlor, *Le p'tit bal* is a fun and very well done little romp of a dance short. It reminds me of a cross between Charlie Moulton's (even older) *Nine Person Precision Ball Passing* because of its sense of exactitude and extreme frontal quality, and the hysterical and fantastic 1991 French feature comedy *Delicatessen*.



Hand jiving in 'Le p'tit bal'

I cannot comment on the meaning, but I love the color, angles, choice of location, camera moves, simple production design, and sheer absurdity of this short, and especially the fact that it is all communicated via a combination of dance and what seems to be some form of or allusion to sign language. With both style and film/video/digital quality changing every ten minutes, and because we become so inundated with new information that can change our aesthetic sensibilities, a lot of older media doesn't always hold up as well as I feel this does. I hope you *enjoy*.

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