

# In Glass

Sydney Opera House, Spring Dance - Reviewed by Jill Sykes: SYDNEY MORNING HERALD  
September 10, 2010



THIS delicate essay in movement is beautifully conceived, choreographed, composed, designed and danced.

Without two performers of such flexibility and control, it would not have made as strong an impact. Conversely, if the dancers didn't have this context to work in, their contribution would not have emerged so powerfully. The beauty of *In Glass* lies in the way it shifts perceptions from reality to virtual vision – through video footage and glass reflections – and sparks the viewer's imagination. It is a form of poetry in dance and music.

Kristina Chan and Paul White are outstanding performers. Her solos are heightened by curving phrases that flow so smoothly, yet in unexpected directions, that you feel they could go on for ever. He has an ability to convey a great deal through stillness and small gestures that grip the attention for the contained power of his stage presence. Separately, their performances are engrossing. Together, their partnership is synchronised in mind and spirit as well as moving limbs and breath.

Choreographer Narelle Benjamin has taken her yoga-based ideas into a broader direction that synthesises her philosophy and their skills into a satisfying whole. The choreographer's note mentions mythology and the unconscious – and, yes, you can pick Narcissus and drift with concepts of consciousness. But you don't need pegs to enjoy the piece, which has a wonderful timelessness about its pace, slowly evolving style of movement and the occasional classic yoga moment.

Huey Benjamin's soundscape is a sympathetic extension of the action, which, in turn, evolves into imagery of trees in Samuel James's video visions and filmed performance shots. Tess Schofield's costumes are good to look at without intruding and Karen Norris got around most of the lighting challenges. The difficulty always in the Studio is the ability to see the performers when they are close to the audience, especially doing floor work. The mirrors, in addition to being integral to the design, are a help.