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REVIEWS

QUIET SUN - LEONARDO BARILARO

a day ago



Last weekend marked the release of Leonardo Barilaro's second piece 'Quiet Sun' from his wider project, **SeaSharp**.

Quiet Sun premiered at Storeroom on Sunday 19th May to a crowd eager to see the finished product in its entirety. Despite a last-minute change in the event's scheduling, Quiet Sun was worth the wait, having once again pushed the boundaries of artistic creativity and expression in the form of both dance and sound.

The tone of the video is set within the first few seconds, beginning with the central theme behind the project – *Stepping outside into the chill of the Future*. At this point we are introduced to co-protagonist and lead choreographer **Thea Cunningham** who appears alongside **Özlem Başman**, **Vanessa Bugeja**, **Olha Ivashchuk and Simona Side** in a shadowed room (filmed at Storeroom).

The ambience of darkness and ambiguity is enhanced by the use of synths and frequencies which linger for a while before Leonardo cuts through on piano. But this transition only lasts for a brief moment before Marino Di Nino steals the spotlight with his guitar performance, lasting the duration of the song.

The piece reaches its climax when the bass and drums kick in, which also acts as a transitional queue from darkness to light, as



we're suddenly projected to an abandoned building by the seaside (filmed in Marsascala).

Throughout Quiet Sun, the use of polar imagery is employed on several fronts, the most compelling of which are the strong emotions evoked in the movements and actions of each dancer against the calm and collected nature of Thea and Leonardo.

Several interpretations can be drawn from this, one being that the chaos of emotions portrayed is symbolic of the conflict and nonlinearity of life which, in turn, creates a sense of frustration and confusion on our journey to reach our dreams and goals.

On the other hand, the calmness of Leonardo and Thea represent the two key elements of the video – dance and music – which again embody the principles of polarity, but not in the traditional sense. Rather, both dance and music are seen as both necessary and responsible for creating movement, physically and spiritually, in life – adding to the nonlinear message of the video.



Quiet Sun is very much a forward-thinking, experimental song. The combination of carefully crafted choreography, flitting imagery and general unpredictability, create an antithesis that challenges our relationship between external stimulus and internal representation. Whilst this creates meaning on a deeper level, it does require a few listens to fully digest and sink in. Past this, you can truly appreciate the hard work and artistry gone into Quiet Sun and its role within the wider themes of SeaSharp.

Check out the full video below:



Quiet Sun was edited **BLEND** production, directed by Marley Lagana and developed in collaboration with STOREROOM.

Check out Leonardo's other work on his website here.

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