

## **Tero Saarinen: HUNT**

Commissioned by the Venice Biennale in 2002, *HUNT* was **Tero Saarinen's** first solo choreography in ten years. Set to **Igor Stravinsky's** *The Rite of Spring*, *HUNT* delves into the mind of someone being sacrificed and of someone sacrificing himself.

Unlike most interpreters of this Stravinsky classic, Saarinen wanted to focus on the conflicts within an individual: between masculinity and femininity, good and evil, the fading of beauty...

"It was not my first choice but I ended up using *The Rite of Spring* because Stravinsky's music raises endlessly fascinating, fundamental human themes. He poses questions that I, too, want to deal with in my own works. Whose life is it? Who owns us? Who pulls our strings?

*The Rite of Spring* is the cruellest and most powerful of Stravinsky's works. Its primitiveness is frightening yet fascinating in its apparent simplicity. For me, *The Rite of Spring* is above all music of the unconscious. It lures out humanity's brutish, animal sides, just at the time when they are seeking to achieve a sacred state.

In *HUNT*, I wanted to dive into the mind and inner conflicts of a person being sacrificed and of the person who offers himself as sacrifice. This initial situation gave me as a performer a rare opportunity to look into myself, to freely mirror my own experiences, and even to visit the roots of my own dancerhood.

While creating the piece I felt I still needed a power that would stand up to Stravinsky alongside with the choreography and the lighting design by **Mikki Kunttu**. That element ended up being multimedia artist **Marita Liulia**, who adds a live virtual level to the performance. The collaboration also added new themes, which to me, now seem more relevant than ever: the effects of the continuous flood of information and technological advances."

-Tero Saarinen