

Sorry for the delay; much going on, and moving around.

**Pawn's** final performance at ITS Festival 2016 was *Geisha's Miracle*, a dance by Jija Sohn. Sohn is the winner of 2015's Moving Forward Trajectory fellowship program, which gives her, "the opportunity to develop her work and network with the help of five Dutch production houses. The project is a coproduction with Dansgroep Amsterdam and a collaboration with DansBrabant, Dansateliers, Generale Oost, Random Collision and ITS Festival."



The venue was a rather remarkable space, Dansmakers, "As generator of talent, Dansmakers stands for research, production and presentation; a production house with stage where makers can search, fail and shine." It is a lovely space with very nice seating, flexible performance areas, extensive lighting grid and good sound system.

The three dancers started in a clutch in a back corner of the stage and slowly, *very slowly*, arrayed themselves across the whole space. This slow movement almost brings pain into the bodies of the audience, as we watch their tensed muscles fight against each other to *not* move too quickly. Eventually the dance resolves into more recognizable modern movements, and a variety of props, effects, instruments and focus shifts are brought to bear to give us at least the outline of a story.

In her treatise, Sohn, "explores how to communicate emotional or formless material with dance and movement to bridge the gap between different cultures." While I cannot be sure how successful this endeavour was, I can attest the the effective beauty of the piece, and its visceral involvement of us, the audience. All in all, a lovely night at Dansmakers.

The evening was completed with the announcement of four nominees for the 2016 Moving Forward Trajectory. These four will receive mentorship and assistance as they work towards a November mini-presentation, after which one will be selected for the full year's program.