The dance selection at the 2008 New Zealand International Aria Festival was entirely as promised, with extraordinary performances from superb dance artists and eleven productions covering the dance-physical, theatre-dance, and theatre-cirque spectrum, collectively fulfilling the mandate to present us with experiences which are beyond those normally available locally.

The programme offered a representative array of the best dance productions currently on the international festival circuit. Works ranged from the purest of pure dance set to gloriously live music, Tero Saarinen from the purest of pure dance set. Judicious use of lighting, combined with the dancing surface akin to a giant game board whose markings mutated in the course of the dance. His ‘Borrowed Light’ was created for grand presentation. Shen Wei is a master of this striking yet apparently simply achieved pictorial look. His ‘Rite of Spring’ was all black, white and greys, with the dancing surface akin to a giant game board whose markings mutated in the course of the dance. His ‘Borrowed Light’ was created for grand presentation. Shen Wei is a master of this striking yet apparently simply achieved pictorial look. His ‘Rite of Spring’ was all black, white and greys, with the dancing surface akin to a giant game board whose markings mutated in the course of the dance.