

Compagnie3637

Mis en forme : Couleur de police : Automatique, Anglais (Royaume-Uni)

PRESS

Où les hommes mourraient encore



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LE SOIR

Graveyard Theatre

Catherine Makereel

Le Soir

24.05.11

Jean Genet suggested building theatres in cemeteries amongst the dead; placing them in the meditative atmosphere of this limbo between two worlds.

Now Sophie Linsmaux and Aurelio Mergola are following in his footsteps, but turning the concept on its head by bringing death to Théâtre Marni's stage. They create a cemetery where death is synonymous with creativity by mixing together captivating, lush visuals.

Rehabilitating a Taboo

As its starting point, *Où les hommes mourraient encore* takes the idea that humans have seen the tragedy of death repeat itself many times and know their own death is not something that can be avoided.

Today, we try to systematically disguise or get rid of death, but this play is a joyful attempt to improve this taboo's image. The production boldly plays with, tinkersfiddles with, mocks ~~and~~ dreams about death. With the help of three likeable actors (Muriel Legrand, Marine Bestel and Francesco Italian), the Grim Reaper causes all kinds of fantastic, oddball moments. The colour black, while omnipresent as custom dictates, is not overwhelming.

A Very Lively Game

Twilight falls on a sea of ashes, making a fantastic space for the actors to perform. They spend an hour there in a fittingly dark mood.

The stage has been burnt to ashes, and in the middle is a cabin, a sort of washed out, haunted-looking, wandering beach hut. It acts as a mobile back-stage area, from which actors suddenly emerge, their ghostly faces contrasting with their liveliness- they are playful to the point of surreal.

With Emir Kusturica style music, and following in a similar tragi-burlesque vein, the actors try to drown themselves, measure imaginary coffins, weigh up different customs about expressing condolence, and imagine the most dramatic funereal scenarios.

Silent ~~Cadavers~~Cadavers on Stage

The play achieves all this without words. Every time darkness falls, like glimpses into oblivion, the actors re-appear in increasingly unexpected situations. They are occasionally enigmatic, like when Anna Pavlova revives her *Swan Song* while seagull carcasses fall onto the stage with a muffled sound.

~~We will let the~~The other surprises ~~will have to~~ remain a mystery, including a few passages that still need to be ~~adjusted-tightened up~~. Overall the show is brimming with

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inventiveness, and you will not regret adding it to your bucket list.



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Où les hommes mourraient encore

Adrienne Nizet

Mis en forme : Couleur de police : Automatique, Anglais (Royaume-Uni)

Mosquito

24.05.11

On the Labo stage at the Marni theatre, two women and a man play dead. They stop breathing, plunge their heads into pails of water and even shoot themselves - to no avail. No one dies anymore in the backwater where they live.

Death has become the ultimate fantasy. Dreamers that they are, the characters imagine burials and funeral processions. They prepare flower crowns just in case, hoping impatiently to be mown down.

Highly visual, Sophie Linsmaux and Aurelio Mergola's first creation reveals a unique universe, and a delicious boldness. At times their train of thought can be hard to follow but you do not experience a moment's boredom thanks to the beguiling beauty of the staging (Aurélie Deloche) and the three actors (Marine Bestel, Muriel Legrand and Francesco Italiano), who are by turns clowns and poets. You are watching a real work of art.

- Until 28.05, 8pm. Théâtre Marni, rue de Vergnies 25, 1050 Bruxelles. €8-10, article 27. 02/639.09.82, www.theatremarni.com

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Theatre

How Would You Die?

Nicolas Naizy

Metro

May 2011

Religion and tradition dictate that we should approach death with caution. Sophie Linsmaux and Aurelio Mergola have decided to strike down our assumptions, but dry your eyes; this is a burlesque first and foremost. The three actors look very at home on the large, burnt out stage. They alternately move their cabin around and act in silent sketches about defying death and different ways of [expressinggiving](#) condolences. Freshness and creativity abound in this talent-revealing show.

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Performances until the 28th of May at the Marni.

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