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Edinburgh 2007

Hangman



Venue: Aurora Nova

Low Down

A tale of crime and punishment where dark clowns act out a frenzied game in a world of shadows and uncertainty.

Review

It seems fitting that this exploration of the nature of crime and punishment should come out of Russia, a country where increasingly the role of law holds little sway. In DO-Theatre's wonderful Hangman lines between perpetrator and victim are blurred and crime emerges out of the absurdities of everyday life.

This piece opens with a tableau of three figures, personifications of blindness, deafness and muteness sitting at a table. A figure in the corner taps away at a typewriter while another builds the scaffold. Newspapers litter the floor and the cut-out letters of H-A-N-G-M-A-N stand high on the wall.

The classic children's game of Hangman is played out with deadly intent. This is an absurd world where a man can be killed while out for lunch, where newspapers dole out justice and where the state revels in its quest for vengeance.

DO-Theatre creates a shadowy world of swinging lights and fractured music against which black-suited clowns act out a frenetic game with deadly consequences. The white-faced, bowler-hatted characters of DO-theatre do not put a foot wrong.

This is a show of impeccable timing and virtuoso performances. There are elements of the Marx brothers, there are Chaplinesque moments but more than that, this is totally DO-theatre at the sparkling top of their form.

Reviewed by Clare Simpson 09/08/07

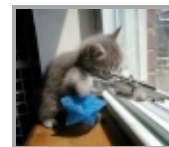
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