



EDINBURGH FESTIVAL

Metro rating



Hangman

Tina Jackson - Monday, August 20, 2007

In a monochrome world where tables float, lamps sway and shadows shift around the stage, the four dancers of Russia's DO-Theatre enact a macabre puzzle to hypnotic visual effect.

Blending absurd theatre with contemporary dance, clowning and surreally grotesque humour, they use an inventive choreographic language to create moving images with a dark, disjointed logic of their own, in turns blackly funny, eerie and simply dazzling.

As a bureaucrat raps out words on an upright typewriter, it's apparent from the off that the three frock-coated dancers who make up The Dumb Trinity (one blind, one deaf, one dumb) are trapped in a terrible game of systems and semantics that leads to a trial and an execution.

But although there's a cerebral element, this isn't just an intellectual puzzle, but an entrancing show that's haunting and thought-provoking.

Visually and technically it's stunning, veering between comic grotesquerie as two fancy-frocked ladies dine delicately on spaghetti brains served from the head of another dancer, to a lyrical duet where androgynous bodies cast off their black and white casings to roll over each other in the flurry of newsprint that covers the stage.

Until Aug 25, Assembly Aurora Nova (V8), 7.45pm. www.auroranova.org

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