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REVIEW: Splitfoot

Splitfoot * * * * *

An utterly thrilling performance is all you can expect from “Splitfoot”. The drone of a fan and the whispers of the audience greet you with an ominous atmosphere as you enter the room. And from the very first word to the last, you are gripped. The story of a damaged late 19th century family – the Fox sisters - and their struggle to make money seems far too simplistic a description, because the storyline is so fast-moving it is often hard to keep up.

You will not be let down technically. Complex dialogues and perfect synchronisation of choreography with each other and the sound-track make for great theatre! Also, the wooden toys used for the ‘bone-cracking’ add a shrill shock amongst the speech. All this combined makes for an intense, sinister and totally arresting. The cast, consisting of just 5 actors, did a fine job of incorporating other characters into each role. The two male actors being the most changeable, with one playing both mother and father of the sisters. This, at times may confuse the plot, but also adds an element of the absurd or at least comic which is very welcome, and no doubt takes talent to pull off as well as they did.

With Mr. Splitfoot narrating this true-story, whilst being very much a part of the acts, the audience are constantly asking if what they are seeing is reality or absurd. This transcendence of reality brings the play to life, and keeps the audience engaged and on-edge. And as the Fox sisters’ money-making scheme slowly unravels, even they begin to question the legitimacy of their ‘gift’.

As the play progresses, it takes a less spooky, more heart-breaking turn as yet another ghost story crashes the emotions of the stunned audience. These ghost stories are interspersed throughout, and help to break up the storyline, adding often comic anecdotes or tragic tales. All in all, a brilliantly enjoyable way to spend the best part of an hour.

See “Splitfoot” @ C Nova (studio 1) Now-22nd August (18:10) Tickets: £10.50/£8.50 concession



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