

Sunday, October 21, 2012

Melbourne Festival: An Act of Now, Weather, DESH

Melbourne Festival Diary #6

Even off the plan, the strongest aspect of the 2012 Melbourne Festival was always the dance. It's a feeling borne out in the performances I've seen: **William Forsythe's I Don't Believe in Outer Space** was the first knockout, and these three works - Chunky Move's *An Act of Now*, Akram Khan's *DESH* and Lucy Guerin Inc's *Weather* - further demonstrate the vitality, reach and power of contemporary dance.



An Act of Now, Chunky Move. Photo: Jeff Busby

I've been dithering for several days about how to write about them. Dance, and especially dance of this calibre, often has that effect: you can't hide behind words, even if words are present in the performance, because what matters is movement, gesture, living bodies in space, the performance itself. Critical response becomes, even more than usual, an impossible act of translation, an attempt to interpret the wordless body into written language. Maybe part of this stuttering is overload: when you think of the complexities - the sheer volumes of sensual and intellectual information, the emotional intensities - that attend a really interesting performance, it's ridiculous to think you can even begin to understand it in a few hours. Sometimes covering a festival feels like trying to process *War & Peace* five times a week. Which is to say, one is always face to face with one's own failure.

I'm no closer to a solution, perhaps because there isn't one: but reviews are beginning to bank up, whingeing is not to the purpose and I'd had better square my jaw, akimbo my elbows and get on with it. Either that, or stop going to festivals and begin a Slow Art movement. I don't know how you young people do it.



"Sh*t self-righteous theatre

Update: Jana Perkovic weighs Semiotics . Well worth the re Guardian 's Noises Off rounds



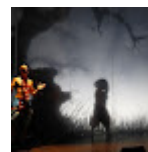
Review: The G

*NB: Major spo
Deadpan irony
Australians are
can find themselves disconce



Melbourne Fes the People

Melbourne Fes
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An Enemy of the People se...



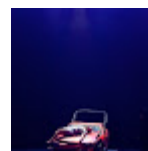
Melbourne Fes Versus The Th

I've been dither
days, trying to f
about this extraordinary show.
Back's Food C...



The Skriker

The Skriker by Caryl Churchill
designed by Brian Lipson. Lig
Shuter, audio visual by Qiao L



Review: Pomp

Warning: here t
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Title:

Melbourne Festival: An Act of Now, Weather, DESH

Date:

2012

Citation:

Alison Croggon, Melbourne Festival: An Act of Now, Weather, DESH, Theatre Notes, 21 October 2012

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