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LATEST COMMENTS

Right,,I think we should play Gillard at her own game. She wants to support wholesale discrimination of minorities by religious...

Kevin, 17. January, 2013 | #

Christine Forster, I refer to an article 7 January SX re: Christine Forster - "Will be working hard for the local residents and the...

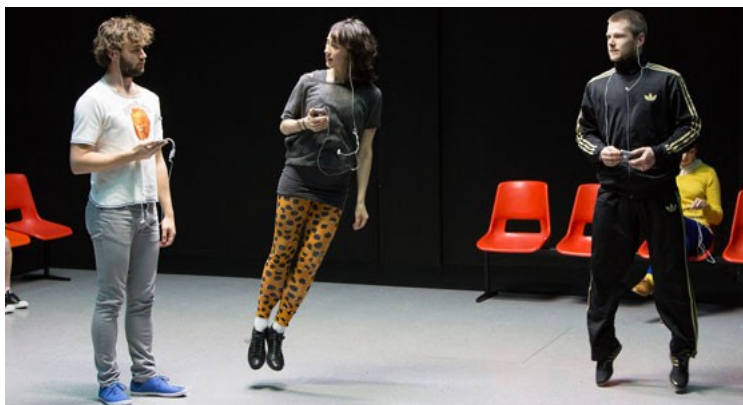
Graham Brecht, 17. January, 2013 | #

In the future, children will visit a museum, and stair in shock at this legislation, hanging next to the White Australia Policy. To deny...

Dave, 17. January, 2013 | #

Good on you for raising this issue Alex- for too long the ability of religious organisations to discriminate in the provision of...

Bryn Hutchinson, 16. January, 2013 | #



SEP 03 REVIEW: CONVERSATION PIECE

AUTHOR // Veronica Hannon
CATEGORIES // Theatre | Entertainment

Choreographer and director Lucy Guerin's latest work Conversation Piece is a meditation on contemporary social intercourse. It brings together six young artists from the disciplines of theatre and dance.

Three dancers walk onto the stage. They begin an unscripted conversation. They record the trivial chatter on their iPhones. The banal talkfest stretches to eight minutes. I suspect the intention is to bore us although the recollection of a projectile vomiting incident in Sizzler reduces many in the audience to hysterics.

When three actors join the dancers, take their phones and plug in earphones I begin to dread the worst. Sure enough, the actors face front and regurgitate what we have just listened to. All this empty talk begins to dull my mind and I want to scream, "For god's sake will somebody start dancing!" Before my self control deserts me, Johnny Cash comes to the rescue, his cover of Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds 'Mercy Seat' begins to play, drowning out the prattling actors and the dancers begin to move.

From this point on I find myself a lot more engaged by the performance. Thankfully I don't have to hear the initial conversation again in its entirety. Instead the use of snippets planted in some very different exchanges - an overbearing commuter takes a call on a crowded train, a mad woman rants to anyone who'll listen - is often witty and interesting. In one scene actor Alison Bell shows off her comic chops to great effect, seemingly channelling Gunnery Sergeant Hartman from Stanley Kubrick's Full Metal Jacket, as she tears apart dancer Harriet Ritchie and her contribution to the opening conversation.

Still the most memorable moments, revealing the subtleties and failings in human communication, are expressed in dance. Dancer Alisdair Macindoe brings a real sense of danger to the proceedings. In a scene with actor Matthew Whittet we observe a conversation at cross purposes turn into something a lot darker. Macindoe is a dancer fully in control yet his physical bullying of Whittet is extremely confronting.

The dancers - Ritchie, Macindoe and Rennie McDougall - are all sublime movers and the actors - Bell, Whittet and Megan Holloway - are able to bend text to their will. It is really their show.

Conversation Piece, Belvoir St Theatre. Until 15 September. Bookings: 02 9699 3444

FEATURED PROMOTION

Advertisement for JOY 94.9 radio station, including text: 'Made in Melbourne, for the World', 'Australia's only gay and lesbian radio station', 'Listen to JOY 94.9 live when you want, where you want', 'Support JOY', 'Follow JOY'.

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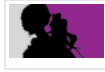
- Pop star Elton John and David Furnish welcome their second son
.@leichhardtmc to fly rainbow flag at Town Hall and hold #LGBTI event to celebrate this year's @SydneyMardiGras:
HIV protein research shows promise
Win tickets to Sydney harbour gay cru 'Buoyed Up' on Australia Day

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OUT & ABOUT

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



[Veronica Hannon](#)

Veronica Hannon is a Sydney writer and SX's resident theatre and arts reviewer.

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