

# fringe and adelaide festival special

LIBERTINE • VOLUME THREE • EDITION TWO

A measurable gauge of talent is what Lucy Guerin's *Untrained* is delivering to her audience. This production combines two trained dancers, Antony Hamilton and Byron Perry, moving alongside two untrained dancers who are acclaimed visual artists with no movement training whatsoever - Simon Obarzanek and Ross Coulter. The concept of this production first started with an experimental approach to the expression of the body. The exploration of how the body moves and responds to approximation and accurate execution, breathes a casual vibe throughout the theatre and the production itself.

The basic premise of the show is Antony and Byron producing exceptional dance moves, while inviting Simon and Ross to mimic the choreography as closely as they can, however in every attempt it comes across as comical and at times ridiculous. There are few frills visually in *Untrained*, having no set, just a performance space marked out by tape, and costumes resembling that of a Sunday tracksuit. To a degree this production could be described as 'monkey see - monkey do'; this format starts out to be somewhat interesting and entertaining, however loses its appeal

after the eighth routine.

However repetitive, *Untrained* delivers some visual moments of uniqueness and quirkiness. A video montage of each man who has just one minute to share something with the audience delivers an interesting insight into the performer's personalities and creative abilities to entertain and produce a powerful individual statement about themselves.

A peculiar and unexpected moment of clever movement in this production is produced when the four performers talk the audience through their individual routines of putting on and taking off their t-shirts. As odd as this may sound, the viewer actually questions himself or herself how they execute such a typical and regular act of dressing oneself.

Ultimately this production does not set out to shock, revolutionise, or expose the audience to anything new in the vein of dance or choreography, but rather produce a performance in which anyone feels invited to participate in if the opportunity should arise. Individual abilities are showcased, though ultimately *Untrained* is in fact only half-trained.



*untrained*  
jamie richards