



## Theatre Review

Event: The Birthday of the Infanta

Venue: Salisbury Arts Centre

Date: 17 March 2011

Reviewer: Megs Slark

As I entered the stage space, I was kindly greeted by a middle-aged woman, dressed from head to toe in grand white Spanish clothing, to whom I said "Are you an actress?", she replied with "You'll see." She recommended that I took a seat in the front row; I did so and waited for the rest of the audience to take their seats whilst noticing the beautifully constructed set, made of simple white material and metal rope shapes, hanging fans, a life size frame and a translucent screen, including different levels.

The show started with the afore mentioned woman questioning the (shockingly scarce) audience about the emotions linked with 'Birthdays', after a slow start, most of the audience chipped in with their opinions, much to the joy of the actress. I quickly discovered that the show was a one-woman performance but with the amount of skill Georgina Roberts has, more performers would have hindered the performance.

A great variety of characters were played by Roberts, each more inspiring than the last. One particular character that stood out for me was the 'Infanta' herself, for the pure look of innocence Roberts conveyed through her. Another character I can't go without mentioning is the little 'ugly boy', who was portrayed in a variety of different forms, including Roberts wearing a mask and a little puppet made of simple metal.

The performance included a lot of symbolism, whether it was a head height tightrope, stretched down or flowers made from fans, I couldn't have asked for more interesting interpretations.

One of the elements of theatre that is especially hard to perfect is audience participation. I am glad to say Roberts did a magnificent job of including the audience throughout, and I very much enjoyed presenting the Infanta with a white rose, after being chosen from the audience. Something else that is hard to keep the audience engaged with is language; especially foreign languages, which Roberts seamlessly slid into the script without a single blip.

Since you've missed the awesome opportunity to experience Trestle Unmasked in Salisbury, I suggest you shuffle on down to Bath, where the show is travelling next. Grab a ticket while you can and prepare yourself for a performance you've never seen anything like before.

*The Young Reviewers Club is run by The Unit,  
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