

San Francisco Fringe 2022

Potato Topos

Andomifevin

FringeReview

RECOMMENDED SHOW

Genre: Absurd Theatre (<https://fringereview.co.uk/festival/san-francisco-fringe/?festivalgenre=absurd-theatre>), Surrealism (<https://fringereview.co.uk/festival/san-francisco-fringe/?festivalgenre=surrealism>)

Venue: EXIT Theatre, San Francisco (<https://www.theexit.org/>)

Festival: San Francisco Fringe (<https://fringereview.co.uk/festival/san-francisco-fringe/>)

Low Down

An hour long show divided into three locations with themes of nostalgia, fantasy, and expansion. Includes performance, light, sound, textiles, and language, from surrealism to formalism, and absurdism somewhere in between.

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Review

A gossamer landscape undulates to ethereal music against a backdrop of projections.

The landscape comes alive and four strangers emerge...and we meet them one by one. Are they from the same family or city? This may not be important because what is happening is that an atmosphere is created and we are along for the journey.

Then there is a grill that is moved across the stage and potatoes – the grill is the type you plug in to to cook and actual potatoes arrive. Potatoes are strewn about the stage. Dressed in a variety of abstract garments in a color palate of browns, beige and venerable russet, the cast of four have a mission and they go about it – even if we are not sure what it is!

One announces a song and plays it while playing a small guitar, or is it a large ukulele? Curiously the other three watch and a sort of competition develops, which is fascinating. This game is interspersed with a zany ritual set to a chimed tick tock sound, and we are engrossed. I notice audience members tapping with the tick tock beats each time, it's mesmerising!

This show is what fringe is about. These characters take themselves seriously and all of a sudden, so do we! Abstract video projections and music are very imaginative and create a gentle weird world inhabited by strange but endearing beings. Spoken word, movement and dance convey the story together with the visual storytelling and their activities are well received.

It's interesting to think about a humble potato and its life, hopes and dreams – its destiny, but this is where we're at moment by moment and I would only want to share this contemplation under the knowing eyes and guidance of these four specialists!

Unusual and out of the box creative devising brings us a wonderful wry dance of the potato sacks and other deliciously playful and sometimes earthy pieces with rich visuals.

Contact improv transforms into elegant, lyrical, dreamlike atmosphere and then transform into bold movement with multidimensional and multi sensory scenes. After a while we understand that the working day of these characters is over and it is about to begin again.

This is a creative original and unique meaningful experimental show.

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