

August 14, 2015

The Public Reviews (Edinburgh UK)

Reviewer: David Doyle

BARBU Electro Trad Cabaret:

Underbelly's Circus Hub, Edinburgh

It's incredibly difficult to describe Cirque Alfonse's circus rave. It really needs to be seen to understand quite how roller skates, a live band, pole dancing, bearded men, and golf clubs can all meld so wonderfully together to create a performance that's equal parts amusing and jaw dropping.

At its heart, the show is a showcase of traditional circus and variety performance with acrobatics, feats of strength, juggling, magic, and aerial work all on show and performed with exceptional skill. However this is definitely not just a traditional circus performance. Instead it both celebrates and subverts traditional circus performance and creates something unique and highly original.

A key elements of the show is the live electro-trad band that plays throughout the show and creates a soundtrack to the work that is as worthy as the performance on the stage. The music helps create an atmosphere that's as much a party as a circus performance and also helps keep the show moving forward during the few moments that the action feels as though it's beginning to lag.

One of the real strengths of the piece is how the troupe have managed to weave a lot of humour into the performance which heightens the energy in the tent throughout. The most scintillating moments though are the wonderful acrobatic elements that seem to defy the limits of the human body, chief among these is a series of roller skating acrobatics that open the show and start what's a night of mesmerising circus performance.

Runs until August 29th (not 18th) 2015

Review Overview

The Public Reviews Score

Mesmerising