

Victoria

By Dulcinea Langfelder based on a text by Charles Fariala

Dulcinea Langfelder & Co (Canada)

Assembly @ Aurora Nova

British Theatre Guide

By Philip Fisher

Victoria bravely takes on a subject rarely considered seriously in theatre, let alone dance. The protagonist may think that she is still 30 but in all probability, left that age behind half a century ago.

Not only is she wheelchair bound but suffers from some kind of dementia so bad that she is rarely able to finish the sentences that she so enthusiastically starts.

The witty but also very moving text shows an old woman's deep frustration and desire to recover her mind and freedom. This dissolves into a dance as her night-gown transforms into a kind of toga and the wheelchair becomes a liberating dance partner.

Creator and performer Dulcinea Langfelder and her wheely collaborator make ideal partners in a beautiful sequence that really complements the story with pace changes from languid to swooping.

Victoria's problems become those of her carer played by Eric Gingras. He catches the mixture of affection and frustration that is inevitable when dealing with somebody old enough to be his grandmother but acting more like an infant.

In addition to the words and dance, there is also some excellent shadow play to inject amusement into what could have become a depressing 80 minutes, although with such creative imagination demonstrated again and again, that was never a serious risk.