

Dublin Fringe Festival reviews

Teatro Delusio ★★★★★

Pavilion Theatre,
Dún Laoghaire

All the drama is backstage in Teatro Delusio, as three stage-hands are stalked by the ghost of the theatre, who helps them fulfil their fantasies. Using mime, masks and breath-taking physical dexterity, an ensemble cast of three transform themselves into multiple characters, both fictional and "real". However, this is not theatre of illusion, but theatre of delusion, and in this fantasy world we see the techies upstage the divas, oust the director, and try to seduce the prima ballerina. In the real world of the theatre, meanwhile, the sense of illusion created by the Familie Flöz is an incredible feat. The masks themselves are characters - eerily naturalistic at key moments, the grotesque visage of a nightmare at others - while the lighting design subtly creates the shifts between their reveries and the real life on stage. Even the

real curtain call at the end of the play becomes a performance in the hands of the inventive members of the company. As an enchanted audience of adults and children watch spellbound, the techies are transformed into actors and they take their bows. But the spell is broken for only a moment before the three performers turn to clear the stage - becoming, again, the characters that they had left behind. (Ends tonight)

Sara Keating