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# Dublin Theatre Festival 2015: artless for art's sake in 'Corps Diplomatique'

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Corps Diplomatique by Halory Goerger

*Photo by Didier Crasnault used with kind permission of Dublin Theatre Festival*

## Corps Diplomatique by Halory Goerger

Rating: ★★★★★

Set adrift in space, five sterile, French misfits have been tasked with writing, rehearsing and performing a new play ad infinitum. In doing so they will educate subsequent generations and any occupants of interplanetary crafts they might encounter. To call them artists would be a stretch. They're not exactly Cirque de Soleil. They have no training, though one has seen a couple of plays and another is a medium, no time constraints, no context, no form, no content and no idea where to begin. Halory Goerger's clever "Corps Diplomatique" pokes fun at the human desire, or lack of, to create art, and in doing so raises some serious questions about whether art reveals meaning or imposes it and, if given the chance to start again from scratch, might we end up somewhere new or somewhere all too familiar in our search for transcendence.

Directed and conceived by French theatre maker, Halory Goerger, “Corps Diplomatique’s” understated, madcap humour contains a wealth of hidden depths alongside its well placed laughs. Like its endless journey, it occasionally takes a little long to arrive somewhere interesting, but its motley crew of Albane Aubry, Mélaïne Bestel, Arnaud Boulogne, Domonique Gillot and Goerger himself exhibit wonderful chemistry with impeccable comic timing. Played out in an excellent set by Halory Goerger and Théâtre Nanterre- Amandiers, “Corps Diplomatique” features English subtitles projected onto the back wall. And if Houston had a problem and these broke down on occasion, it only slightly detracted from an otherwise memorable production.

In “Corps Diplomatique” you have to travel countless light years and countless generations to find an audience for a new art form. But behind the jokes lie some serious questions. Like if art’s only frame of reference is itself is it because its audience are always its creators, operating in a vacuum a million miles removed from anyone else? Space may be the final frontier, but the theatre space still has some uncharted territories worth exploring. Into these Halory Goerger isn’t afraid to venture and with “Corp Diplomatique” boldly goes on a wildly imaginative, deceptively clever and hilariously funny journey that entertains as much as it enlightens.

“Corps Diplomatique” by Halory Goerger by runs at The [Project Arts Centre](#) Space Upstairs as part of the Dublin Theatre Festival until October 3rd.

Show begins at 7.30 pm

Tickets €25-€30

For further information visit [Dublin Theatre Festival](#) or [Project Arts Centre](#)



**Chris O'Rourke**  
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