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Dublin Dance Festival 2016 'Relic' is what it is

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Relic by Euripides Laskaridis and Osmosis Performing Arts Company
Evi Fylaktou

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Rating: ★★★★★

"Relic" by Greek artist, Euripides Laskaridis, might well be an interrogation of the current economic crisis in Greece and its impact on the artist. It might well be an exploration of gender and the demands placed upon the feminine. It might even be a deconstruction of the performer as an agent of transformation through a theatrical process dominated by the artificiality of mask, costume, props and light. Or it might well be the intellectual equivalent of gobbledegook. It might be any, all or none of the above. With "Relic," you don't necessarily have to know what it means. You don't even know that it means. You only have to know that it is. And "Relic" is an innovative, creative and wildly funny spectacle that never stops giving.

“Relic” hits like a stream of consciousness, or an abstract painting, challenging all preconceptions and easy identification. It could be a woman. It could represent a man dressed as a woman. It might even be a gazelle with bunny ears. Whatever it is, it’s playfully disturbing and utterly riveting. It marches, prances, dances and leaps across the stage through a kaleidoscope of light and sound, dressing, smoking, watering plants and hanging picture frames, doing whatever takes its fancy. Everything is transformed, a head might be a toilet, a skirt might be the entrance to a stage, Hitler might sing and [dance](#) in a grotesque burlesque. Anything is possible. Nothing is forbidden.

Referencing the slapstick, physical comedy of silent movies, Laskaridis exercises perfect comic timing. Indeed, though Laskaridis is more likely eschew the intellectual in favour of the guilty pleasure, there’s still a rigorous intelligence at work behind "Relic's" comic offerings. Yet “Relic” also has its darker aspects. Wolves howling at the moon can become rabid, a knife can cut a mouth open. And it all moves at pace, often feeling like channel hopping through countless TV programmes, in a spectacle where performance art meets dance meets comedy meets the absurd.

Euripides Laskaridis’ joyous journey through the sublime and the kitsch that is “Relic” is a laugh out loud delight. Fast and unpredictable, “Relic” is full on and unapologetically fun. If your humorous leanings are towards things that don’t always have to make sense, that enjoy being immersed in an unrelenting sensual assault, then “Relic” is the show for you. And if not, go anyway. You don’t have to know what it means. You only have to enjoy it. And that you most certainly will do.

“Relic” by Euripides Laskaridis and Osmosis Performing Arts Company runs as part of the [Dublin Dance Festival 2016](#) at The [Project Arts Centre](#) until May 28th

Doors open 7.00 p.m.

Tickets: €15.00 or €13.00 concession

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



Chris O'Rourke
Theatre Examiner

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