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Dublin Dance Festival 2015 – A body of ideas

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Shaping Time by Gavin Kostick
Juno Kostick

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Rating: ★★★★★

Described as an informal opportunity to consider and discuss how structural ideas from playwriting could be used in developing a new work for dance, *Shaping Time* set up an ambitious expectation. In *Shaping Time*, part of Dublin Dance Festival's Moving Conversations, playwright Gavin Kostick gives a masterclass workshop exploring four elements of dramatic structure: the reversal, managing time, the flip or transference of power and consequences. These coincide, he argues, with the classical structure of the four act play. Using four short plays selected from Fishamble's publication *Tiny Plays For Ireland* to illustrate these ideas, his co-collaborator, dancer and choreographer Emma Fitzgerald, sets about translating these ideas into physical movements.

Responding to two texts for the first time on the night, the other two having being previously read, Fitzgerald afforded the audience a glimpse into the organic process of a developing choreography. Some routines were quite successful with the ideas clearly present suggesting the

conversation between playwright and dancer could be a fruitful avenue for further exploration. Audience discussion raised many intriguing issues, particularly around the desire to impose narrative. But the clock was always ticking, urging proceedings relentlessly forward. In the end it felt like too much time was given to the reading of texts and not enough to their consideration, even though it was not the texts themselves but rather the ideas they illustrated which formed the basis of the brief, informed and lively discussions.

Like Kostick's impressive depth of knowledge and passion for his craft, Fitzgerald's physical responses hinted there was so much more to be tapped into here. In the end, *Shaping Time* felt like several doors opening all at once before time ran out and words got in the way. But never fully opening, always just ajar, always offering a small, tantalizing gap you wanted to peer deeper into.

Shaping Time is part of Dublin Dance Festival's 2015 Moving Conversations

For more information on further Moving Conversations go to:

<http://www.dublindancefestival.ie/>



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