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Dispatches from The Fringe – A Lamb In Wolves Clothing

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Whichever1ufeed by Gentle Giant Theatre Company
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Rating: ★★★★★

Next to a glowing fire in an unnamed desert, a weak willed, Jesus figure with a death wish struggles with his dark desires. These include a fetish for being beaten up and a violent dislike of the old and infirm. On the last night of his forty day fast he is visited by a Lucifer like being, dressed as an upper class, tennis playing snob with affected mannerisms. A theological argument of sort ensues with nothing much else happening. Referencing the Native American fable of The Two Wolves and constructed around the biblical story of Jesus' forty days in the desert, Gentle Giant Theatre Company's, *Whichever1ufeed*, written by Ross Gaynor, James O'Driscoll and Neil Watkins, takes a heavy handed approach to themes of love, justice, mercy and compassion, to name but a few, in a production that aimed high but missed the mark.

Blending biblical and contemporary references, *Whichever1ufeed*, deals in broad, theological

abstractions without ever really unpacking them. Offering no new insights and lacking any theological, spiritual or moral bite, ideas like justice and mercy are thrown about as if self explanatory then left under developed. Occasional and welcome moments of humour worked well but were often lost amidst dialogue that felt forced and strained throughout. Performers James O'Driscoll and Neil Watkins strove bravely to elevate their characters and their symbiotic relationship into something engaging, but given the weakness of the material, performances struggled to rise above being one dimensional. None of which was helped by poor lighting, even allowing for the obvious limitations of the venue.

Directed by Mark Fitzgerald, *Whichever1ufeed* deals in big ideas in a small way and the result is one of an opportunity missed. *Whichever1ufeed* strives to be powerful and have teeth, but feels instead like the poor little lamb that has gone astray.

Whichever1ufeed by James O'Driscoll and Neil Watkins runs as part of the [Tiger Dublin Fringe](#) at The Stables, Fumbally Lane, until Saturday, September 20th

Doors open 9.00 p.m.

Tickets €14.00 Concessions €12.00

For more information go to <http://fringefest.com/festival/programme>



Chris O'Rourke

Tulsa Theater Examiner

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