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Dispatches from The Fringe – No Rest For The Wickedly Funny

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The Rest Is Action by The Company

Patricio Cassinoni

The Rest Is Action by The Company

Rating: ★★★★★

Entering the mist shrouded auditorium of the Space Upstairs at The [Project Arts Centre](#), the stage receding into pitch blackness, the sense of mystery is palpable. Presently, a single torchlight cuts through the darkness followed by a second beam. A red carpet is rolled out across the stage, lights are gradually switched on and three actors take to the stage. In the award winning, [The Company](#)'s latest production, *The Rest Is Action*, a meta theatrical interrogation of The Oresteia becomes an interrogation of meaning, gesture, language, performance and theatre itself. Here the lines between character and actor, rehearsal and performance, life and theatre blur and bleed into one another in an intelligent, insightful and humorous production.

The action begins, Godot like, with the act of waiting. Waiting for what, or whom, is not entirely clear. Presently grapes are distributed and actors discuss the meaning or non-meaning of various

gestures and phrases. In what follows a rehearsal-come-performance of *The Oresteia* becomes a place where gestures, scenes and dialogue are frequently repeated, highlighting their constraints, our sense of habitually adopting the norm, even if each time there is a subtle difference. Keep moving and you'll get there spurs the action forward. But getting where?

With excellent performances by Brian Bennett, Nyree Yergainharsian and Rob McDermott, *The Rest Is Action* poses many questions but answers few. José Miguel Jimenez's excellent direction ensures the pace never wanes, teasing out rich nuances, layers of humour and subtle differences between repeated scenes. Stephen Dodd's excellent design is worth the price of admission alone being cleverly simple yet powerfully evocative.

If *The Rest Is Action* falls down in places it may be through the sin of omission. In its interrogation of habitual gestures and use of language to encapsulate agreed meanings, it doesn't go far enough to explore the impulse to create meaning, the impulse to create gesture, the impulse to create theatre itself or why we've all signed up to the contract. Before I speak I want to say something. Before speaking is there something to say?

With excellent performances, top class design, *The Rest Is Action* is a cleverly invented fiction about the invention of fiction that is deeply intriguing, intelligently thought provoking and incredibly good fun.

The Rest Is Action by The Company runs as part of The Tiger Dublin Fringe at The Project Arts Centre, Space Upstairs until Saturday, September 13th

Doors open 6.30 p.m. Matinee on Saturday, September 13th at 2.00 p.m.

Tickets €16.00 Concessions €14.00

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



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