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Dublin Dance Festival 2016 'AL13FB<3' turns on your heart light

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AL13FB<3 by Fernando Belfiore
Thomas Lender

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Rating: ★★★★★

Alchemy, transforming base metals into gold, or, in this instance, transforming industrial strength, kitchen foil into a sculpture, informs much of "AL13FB<3." The Amsterdam based, Brazilian born performer, Fernando Belfiore, may take his time telling us who he is and what exactly he wants to say, but he does so with such beguiling, almost childlike innocence, it's almost irresistible. As too is his exploration of transformation, of sounds, words, phrases and gestures, all constantly being reimagined, relationships rediscovered with connections and reconnections being established and re-established. Light, airy, tender and funny, "AL13FB<3" is a thoroughly enjoyable performance, pulsing through a neon prism of 80's kitsch coloured fabulousness.

Performance is indeed the operative word for, choreographically, "AL13FB<3" won't worry too many

choreographers. With the majority of movements taking place above the waist, Belfiore allows arms, hands, fingers and face do most of the heavy moving. Vocally there's much activity also, with Belfiore's endless inflections interrupted by as much squawking, squeaking and squealing as to be found in any instalment of Jurassic Park. The whole is steeped in an air of wild unpredictability. So much so that often it wasn't what Belfiore was doing, so much as the anticipation of what he might likely do next, that gave "AL13FB<3" much of its intrigue. Indeed, on occasion, what was actually taking place wasn't always as visually interesting as it might have been, or else lingered too long, overstaying its welcome in places. At other occasions, "AL13FB<3" was a visual delight, assisted in no small measure by the rainbow coloured set design of Nikola Knežević and Tomas Vondracek's equally colourful lighting design.

"How many are you?" Belfiore asks. How many times and ways can you ask or say the same thing? The stars might be scattered like ice cubes across the floor, but at the centre of it all the heart knows what the heart wants and beats accordingly. Alchemy is also about finding the elixir of life. So too is "AL13FB<3."

"AL13FB<3" by Fernando Belfiore ran as part of the Dublin [Dance Festival 2016](#) at The Project Arts Centre on May 18th

For more information, visit [Dublin Dance Festival 2016](#)



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