

AXS ENTERTAINMENT / ARTS &amp; ENTERTAINMENT / PERFORMING ARTS

# Dispatches from the Fringe: 'Feathers' is a thing of joy

September 7, 2015

7:35 PM MST



Feathers

*Photo used with kind permission of Tiger Dublin Fringe*

## Feathers by Irish Modern Dance Theatre

Rating: ★★★★★

Using Emily Dickinson's poem "Hope is a thing with feathers" as a jumping off point, as well as referencing texts from Homer, Aeschylus, Sophocles, Yeats and Ibsen, Irish Modern Dance Theatre's latest production "Feathers" offers a dynamic exploration of the quest for home and hope. Choreographed by John Scott, "Feathers" offers a wonderful fusion of dance, theatre and text all delivered with a beguiling yet powerful playfulness.

Throughout its mad quest "Feathers" exudes a confidence and charm that's not afraid to appear reckless. But reckless in appearance only, for each movement and sequence is delivered with impeccable timing and precision. Patterns of movement emerge, are imitated, developed then dropped as pairs and groupings form simple and intricate sequences from complicated repetitions

to tickle fights. There's a sense of children at play, a sort of childlike abandon and curiosity delivering delightful moments of humour. Text is wonderfully incorporated in a strange symphony of words, sounds, syllables and sentences. But a darkness hovers throughout in the form of a brooding soundscape against which the performers explore being together and alone, enact "Walking Dead" the musical, try name as many types of ships as possible and create a frozen orgy. As the lights fade on "Feathers'" final, powerful image the playfulness gives way to something darker as words drown and hope is indeed felt to be as fragile, and resilient, as a thing with feathers.

"Feathers" international cast comprised of Kevin Coquelard, Omagbitse Omagbemi, Roderick George and Sarah Ryan each give flawless performances crafting powerful individual moments at times. Throughout, their individuality informs the ensemble and the whole is made richer as a result. Mel Mercier's dark, brooding soundscape serves as a perfect foil for "Feathers" childlike playfulness, constraining the exuberance which pushes against it. All of which is ably supported by an excellent lighting design by Eric Würtz. But it is John Scott's impeccable choreography which brings it all together in a production that is brave, inventive and touching.

If at times "Feathers" lulls a little, feeling fractionally too long in one or two places, it's only because the moments when it really strikes home are delivered with such potency they hold the lulls to a higher standard. With its wildness, humour and four excellent performances "Feathers" is a show that deserves to be seen. So go see it now while you still can. For the [Project Arts Centre's](#) Cube space lends the whole a wonderful sense of intimacy and immediacy which enhances the experience of this delightful and dynamic production.

"Feathers" by Irish Modern Dance Theatre runs at the Project Arts Centre as part of the [Tiger Dublin Fringe](#) till September 12th.

Show begins at 7.00 pm

Tickets: €15/€13

For further information go to [Project Arts Centre](#) or [Tiger Dublin Fringe](#)



**Chris O'Rourke**  
Theatre Examiner

© 2006-2015 AXS Digital Group LLC d/b/a Examiner.com