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# Dispatches from The Fringe - Fading In The Light Fantastic

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How To Disappear Completely by The Chop Theatre  
Emily Cooper

## How To Disappear Completely

Rating: ★★★★★

In *How To Disappear Completely* by The Chop Theatre, lighting designer Itai Erdal, a globetrotting, competitive, lighting designer originally from Israel who relocated to Canada, talks to the audience for an hour or so. Once having aspirations to be a filmmaker, Erdal decided to film the last nine months of his mother's battle with lung cancer. Recounting her harrowing decline along with personal anecdotes, Erdal seamlessly switches between story-telling and a master class in lighting design. *How To Disappear Completely* is a clever idea simply executed and the result is an extraordinarily moving theatrical experience.

Using theatrical lighting to inform his story, Erdal recounts his own thoughts and feelings, as well of those of his mother, family members and friends. Footage of his mother and sister are frequently projected onto the back wall with Erdal translating their words from Hebrew. What emerges is a

soft spoken tale of a strong woman preparing to die and the loving son who she asks to help her die. Throughout, love, life and family loom large. Short digressions on the impact of different lighting effects harmonize wonderfully with the central narrative, with the rave sequence being particularly memorable. At times the pace felt slow and the ending was not all it might have been, feeling like a tagged on afterthought, whose momentary humor sacrificed much of its impact. But the over riding sense was of a performance full of profound depth, engaging warmth and uncompromising honesty.

Told with conversational directness, *How To Disappear Completely* is a heart-breaking, heart-warming sharing of one man's efforts to understand, to live a life well lived and to do the right thing. An elegant reminder that even the subtlest light can dispel the darkness and fashion a life affirming and memorable experience.

*How To Disappear Completely* by The Chop Theatre runs as part of the [Tiger Dublin Fringe](#) at The Abbey Theatre, Peacock Stage until Saturday, September 20th

Doors open 6.30 p.m., matinee Saturday, September 20th at 4.00 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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