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# Dispatches from The Fringe – Lurky! Lurky! Gets Lost In Transition

September 10, 2014

4:44 PM MST



Lurky! Lurky! by Fitzgerald and Stapleton Dance Theatre  
*Fitzgerald and Stapleton*

## Lurky! Lurky! by Fitzgerald and Stapleton Dance Theatre

Rating: ★★★★★

Entering the auditorium of the [Samuel Beckett Theatre](#), the eye is greeted by a huge kaleidoscope of rapidly flashing images projected onto a tall screen at the back of the stage. Stage left, two oddly attired figures sit at a table decked in electronic equipment. A disembodied voice intermittently gives a fierce Tiger welcome to random members of the audience as they enter. Centre stage rests a wide, black platform, underneath which lie Fitzgerald and Stapleton, visibly naked behind a veil of black gauze. There's a sense of fun and playfulness to the whole affair. But *Lurky! Lurky!* the latest offering from Fitzgerald and Stapleton Dance Theatre, is also mired in menace and darkness as it explores rape, child abuse, pornography and relationships. With live video editing by Ian Cudmore and music manipulated by DJ Djackulate, *Lurky! Lurky!* is an ambitious production, but one that is often laboured and fails to fully utilise its two central performers.

The show eventually begins with a prolonged series of rapidly flashing images of driving around Wicklow and walking around a New York subway station, accompanied by a voice over reading of a letter for a job application. This is accompanied by a clever mix of songs ranging from Glen Campbell's, *Wichita Linesman* to the theme tune to *Postman Pat*. This lengthy sequence risks bordering on the monotonous and jarring and when Fitzgerald and Stapleton finally take to the stage hopes are raised that something is about to happen. But hopes are quickly squashed. Following a beautiful moment where the naked dancers craft a powerful image beneath the black gauze, followed by a short sequence involving two gongs, both dancers disappear back beneath the platform where they remain for most of the performance.

Their appearance marks a welcome transition from the fractured, kaleidoscopic images into longer visual sequences, many of which are extremely potent and evocative. A masked woman undresses and places a love note into her underwear, a naked woman floats, Ophelia like, in a mountain pool, a mock commercial for Porno Pops challenges the normalization and dangers of pornography. All of which are cleverly and playfully supported by an eclectic soundtrack. But, in between, an overly long ghost story and indignant poem slow the pace considerably and images again revert to the kaleidoscopic, where the female body is often examined microscopically. Meanwhile, Fitzgerald and Stapleton remain beneath the platform lying still or curled up. Their re-emergence towards the end culminates in a gentle, shared sculpting of bodies that is both tender and poignant.

Compared to their excellent production *Wage*, *Lurky! Lurky!* seems an extreme transition for Fitzgerald and Stapleton. Less dance theatre, *Lurky! Lurky!* feels more like a low budget, multimedia installation where Fitzgerald and Stapleton make brief, guest appearances. Gone, for the most part, are Fitzgerald and Stapleton's trademark articulations of the naked, female body in live performance as an expressive vehicle for their ideas, replaced instead with the female body presented through image. With idea presented through image. The image endlessly projected and repeatedly manipulated through a kaleidoscope. Much is lost in this transition as image dominates at the expense of performance and is far less effective in conveying *Lurky! Lurky!*'s dark intentions. For when Fitzgerald and Stapleton take to the stage their presence and skill reminds us that these are two outstanding artists. In *Lurky! Lurky!* you only wished you had seen them more.

*Lurky! Lurky!* by Fitzgerald and Stapleton Dance Theatre runs as part of the [Tiger Dublin Fringe](#) at The Samuel Beckett Theatre until Sunday, September 14th

Doors open 6.30 p.m. with a 1.00 p.m matinee Saturday 13th

Tickets €15.00 Concessions €13.00

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

This show contains nudity, themes of an adult nature and flashing images



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