

SWEET YETI

SWEET YETI is a 25 min solo dance work created and performed by Australian artist Lisa O'Neill. The Sweet Yeti is a small curious woman with frantic feet on an exploration through time and space. She moves ferociously around the perimeter of the space in a ritual dance, marking out her territory.

She sensuously and frantically moves to and from the walls, her feet provide the centre. Decisions made with the feet affect all other decisions both physically and emotionally. She persuades the audience to be concerned for her. She develops this concern through her gaze as she unfolds her body, and at moments there is an expectation that this body will leave the space; falling into the void that the wall represents.

With every step of her small feet, the Yeti moves from place to place leaving her residual imprint behind.

It was the act of 'stomping the feet' that initially inspired the creation of the Yeti character. 'Stomping' is an integral aspect of the physical regime of the Japanese Suzuki Actor Training Method of which O'Neill has been a practitioner since 1995. The Suzuki trained performer draws energy from the floor, the surrounding space and from life experience. This is evident in stillness, gaze, manipulation of space and the use of the feet. The feet are of paramount importance; they are the foundation upon which 'wholeness is created'. The consideration given to how the feet are placed between each movement is deliberate and intense. Suzuki performance philosophy promotes the idea that the story is held and told through the feet of the performer. With every step of the feet the performer moves from place to place leaving residual imprints behind, so too does the Yeti.

CREDITS

Creator/performer - Lisa O'Neill

Costume – Glen Brown

Lighting - Lisa O'Neill

Music - Nirvana, David Motion, Sally Potter, Trent Arkley-Smith, Kerryn Joyce and

Teardrop Explodes

Soundtrack re-edited by Guy Webster

PERFORMANCE HISTORY

Premiered at Metro Arts, Brisbane 2000

New Moves Festival, Glasgow, Scotland 2000

Queensland Art Gallery 2000

Brisbane City Gallery 2000

Velocity, QUT Creative Industries Precinct, Brisbane 2006

REVIEW EXCERPTS

'There's more than a dash of inspired grotesquerie in Lisa O'Neill's solo but there is also a rare poetic delicacy which emerges as she sheds her layers of red oriental garb. The charismatic O'Neill shades in a host of moods through gesture and gaze - astounding, brilliant, utterly captivating.'

The Herald, Scotland 2000

'She has a searing presence; She is funny, confrontational, and erotic. She left her audience cheering more.'

The Observer, London 2000

'Lisa O'Neill possesses a curious china doll quality in her Sweet yeti. Deadpan and intense, O'Neill showed a highly individual movement style, arms as silky as her dress, striding into the powerful light beams with a rubbery nonchalance'

The Scotsman, Scotland 2000

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

- Performance space: black box or proscenium theatre most appropriate with a solid back upstage wall or side walls to perform against
- Black dance floor
- Sound: standard stereo system
- Detailed technical specifications available on request
- Traveling party: 1

CONTACT

For further details of this work contact;

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