

THE IRRESISTIBLE – DARK, CREEPY, MYSTERIOUS (AND A LITTLE BIT DISTURBING)

From an aeroplane to a peep show, a hotel to an apartment. *The Irresistible* deals with family expectations and secrets, unhealthy boundaries and gender politics. As moody and tense as a Hitchcock movie, this darkly funny play will be like nothing you've experienced before.

Zoe Pepper, Adriane Daff and Tim Watts, the core team of artists in this production, have a 10-year working relationship and through this production they really sought to challenge and extend their shared devising practice. They were driven by an interest in unconscious bias and its significant, yet largely unseen, impact on our daily interactions. In creating the work, they played with voice modulation as a means to shift gender and unpack how information is treated depending on who you're hearing it from.

The team also experimented with theatrical form to create a performance that exists in a fluid, liminal space, where characters, locations and time shift and merge defying conventional structure. The result is a fast-paced, often unsettling narrative that pushes audiences to recalibrate their relationship to the performer in front of them depending on the character they are portraying.

BUT WHAT'S IT ACTUALLY ABOUT?

The plot follows the relationship between sisters April and Bridget who experienced a mysterious event in their childhood which has had impacts throughout their adult lives. Bridget is haunted by the memory her sister has long chosen to forget. The mysterious and unexplained permeates every moment of their lives. You can't see it, you can't touch it, you can barely feel it. You can't hold on tight enough, as its darkness encircles you, then retreats back into the fog.

As Bridget's capacity to cope with the world diminishes, April offers some respite, agreeing to take care of her daughter Cassie for a short period. Cassie's presence in April's home brings with it new and disturbing connections to those mysterious events April has long chosen to forget.

The Irresistible is dark, creepy, mysterious and a little bit disturbing. Told through multiple parallel narratives that intersect through mystery and sci-fi, locations and time bleed into one another with dream-like fluidity as performers transition from one character to the next at breakneck speed. *The Irresistible* is deliberately designed to throw you off guard, leaving you with a resonating sense of deeper meaning that dwells just on the fringes of your mind.

The Irresistible references a number of filmic conventions transformed into a live theatre space; with similarities to *Stranger Things* and *Twin Peaks*. The smoke filled, sci-fi nature of the performance is laden with mystery and otherworldliness but at its core has memorable characters that expertly tread the fine line between comedy and crisis as they swirl around in the high stakes drama of the story. As David O'Connell writes in his X-Press review "...like a good *Twin Peaks* episode, the joy is in the hunt for meaning, rather than it being delivered gift-wrapped."

2018 Helpmann Award Nominee for Best Play, this bold and original new work is the exceptional first collaboration between Side Pony Productions (*The Confidence Man*, *The Pride*) and The Last Great Hunt (*Falling through Clouds*, *The Adventures of Alvin Sputnik: Deep Sea Explorer*).

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