

Testimonials TYGER presents *Freefall: Heroes* by Colm Byrne

Druid Lane Theatre

Galway Theatre Festival 2010

I found the production intensely moving. The sense of ordinary lives overwhelmed by catastrophe was quite overwhelming. The careful build-up - ordinary lives lived unremarkably - led with the intensity of Greek tragedy to the unbearable tragedy. The work was well presented, carefully mounted, beautifully performed. This sort of theatrical contemplation demands very high standards and TYGER achieved them. Congratulations!

James Harrold

Arts Officer

Galway City Council

A fine opening. I hope this play gets a longer run in the near future. It deserves to be seen by a wider audience. All of the disparate parts came together in one memorable piece.

Mike McCormack

Award-winning author, Galway

Freefall:Heroes puts us in the shoes of a 9/11 victim, honouring the thousands who died by focusing on the experience of one person. The story is told using an original and unique approach: body movement. It engages our senses.. we breathe and feel the beat of New York life, the buzz of the office, the way time slows before a catastrophe, the fear, the heat, the claustrophobia, the panic. Deeply moving, but never sensationalist or sentimental, this production gives us time to think and reflect on our own lives. It reminds us of the slow and fast times in life - life up until death might seem to pass us by, but in the moments just before it, it slows down... and all that is vital surfaces. This is a strong ensemble piece, each works hard to the beat of the other. The synchronicity of movement is most impressive. It is an evocative production, that leaves us feeling moved.. hopeful.. energised. It is real and gritty and spiritual at the same time.

Ana Mahe

Technical writer, Development Studies

'A courageous and original play about a difficult and important subject staged in a moving and inventive production by TYGER Theatre Company'.

Christian O'Reilly

Playwright/Screenwriter, Galway

Very moving and thought-provoking. Unfolds with an intriguing subtlety that makes you want to see it again. Very original production, compelling to watch, loved the synchronised movement, almost hypnotic at times.

Ciaran Hartigan
English Teacher
MADT

On Friday I saw Freefall:Heroes at Druid and I have to say this production was beautiful and evocative. Mainly for me, it has removed the unsavoury setting (the site of too raw and too recent a catastrophe). I have long been interested in contemporary dance and always want to see more movement in theatre productions. I think dance engages the audience's emotions directly, there is nothing more 'live' in the moment than the body in space. The engagement in that moment is unique, it can't be repeated. So, that's the position I'm coming from.

Having four couples represent the two characters has done away with the sentimentality, (that risk of mawkishness of a love story) I very much liked how the group could act as chorus or as ensemble to evoke the atmosphere: the heat, the airlessness.

I think that was a good way too to evoke the sense of terror and isolation that all the victims would have experienced, not just Sophie the central character. Dealing with choice, using the four couples to each explore the various possibilities, extended the text: made it more universal. Weaving the dancer through the scenes was a lovely physical evocation of dance as an important ingredient in Sophie's life. That final image, those few moments of the dancer holding an arabesque were potent and exquisite.

Davnet Heery

Writer/Poet, Galway

I just wanted to drop you a line to congratulate you on the show. I absolutely loved it. It was a beautiful piece and was so visually moving. I found myself caught on the fence between envying the cast for being part of such a great piece while also feeling very glad that I was able to sit in the audience and enjoy it! The rousing reception last night was most definitely deserved.

Ailbhe Harding

Actor, Galway

Freefall:Heroes was so beautifully portrayed and presented that I would love to see again the many images created by the ensemble movement as stills so as to contemplate them in my own time. Incredibly moving and thought-provoking, this dramatisation of a 9/11 subject needs to be experienced by a wider audience. It took my breath away.

Gillian Bogan

Teacher/Singer, Galway

Ruth and I saw the show during GTF and really enjoyed it - well done. Glad to see you had so many other great testimonials.

Sinead McPhillips

Marketing Manager

Druid

A clever and immaculately directed adaptation of a troubling subject matter, Freefall:Heroes presented the poignancy of 9/11 in a most interesting and dynamic manner. The ensemble cast displayed great instinctive nous in working as a cohesive unit to present a snippet in time replete with an array of emotions through movement, drama and music.

Ger Madden

Professional Musician, London