

LA PRESSE
Montreal (Canada)
September 14th, 2008



The TNM presents a winning partnership between Daniele Finzi Pasca and Cirque Éloize.

FLY AMONG THE CLOUDS WITH THE ANGELS

It's not really a circus... but it's not really theatre either. There's even a hint of cinema, with Fellini's spirit lurking in the shadows. Teatro Sunil and Cirque Éloize open the TNM season with a show that evokes nostalgia, poetry, and humanity: *Nebbia*, the third chapter in the Sky Trilogy.

By Sylvie St-Jacques

Director Daniele Finzi Pasca bathes a series of encounters in a delicate fog with the help of colourful (and beautiful) acrobats, who also happen to be exceptional actors. The two-hour show suggests a purposeful and assumed simplicity that transforms before our eyes with the shifting colours of the backdrop, an ingenious use of exquisite props and performances by artists who delight in blending their discipline with popular Italian theatre.

Precious little gems are scattered throughout the short sketches, often eliciting spontaneous laughter and applause from the audience. A graceful acrobat performs under suspended slabs of pork against a backdrop that resembles a sophisticated butcher shop. A village madman cavorts in his tutu. An eccentric duo plays folk songs on a xylophone. A group of circus performers bring the unbridled quality of street theatre to the stage of the TNM. A contortionist, who resembles nothing more than a wise yogi, twists himself in so many directions that it hurts to watch. Breathtaking aerial

ballerinas remind us that celebration is about pure beauty and the joy of being together and running away.

Overflowing with grace and sensuality, this show touches the soul of the audience. No one can walk out of the TNM without feeling deeply thankful to have tasted the sweet madness of Daniele Finzi Pasca. With childlike awe, the crowd is mesmerized by the trampoline act, in which the stage is "blocked" like a movie screen. Our obstructed view creates the illusion that the acrobats appear out of nowhere. Another scene that will remain engraved in the mind of spectators is the image of performers surrounded by a strange kind of forest as they spin dozens of plates on wooden sticks.

Nebbia conveys Pasca's nostalgia for the village where his grandparents lived - a hazy recollection of a party hosted by a giant, childlike clown. The beautiful madman who suffers from a disease that becomes increasingly debilitating evokes a tender sadness.

Why begin the TNM season with a show that defies categorization, you may ask? Who cares about labels when theatre can be so acrobatic, so breathtaking, so poetic, and so untamed! Here's hoping that the love affair between Daniele Finzi Pasca and Cirque Éloize will burn bright for many years to come. These two are truly a match made in heaven.

Nebbia, presented by Cirque Éloize in co-production with Teatro Sunil, written and directed by Daniele Finzi Pasca, on stage at the TNM until October 4, with additional performances on October 7, 8, and 9.

nebbia

Written and Directed by DANIELE FINZI PASCA