

Lost and Found - Made by Katie Green

Buxton Community School Drama Studio July 9-11, 7pm

Award-winning choreographer Katie Green brings an intense, moving piece of contemporary dance to the Fringe telling the story of a young woman in a destructive but compelling relationship and how she finds support and liberation through her friends.

Daniela B. Larsen is the protagonist and is hardly ever off the stage - quite a physical feat apart from anything else. We see her first in her red dress involved in a volatile partnership with a man in jeans and blue shirt (Graham Adey). They fight, they make up. He falls on her, she carries him. At times there is a feeling that she wants to escape but repeatedly he catches her by the shoulders and she is forced into a backward roll between his legs.

The music is as discordant and full of static as the relationship but the pace of it quickens in the second section in which he leaves and she breaks free (pushing her way forward in almost a breaststroke motion). She finds solace in her friends, a woman in blue (Marie Chabert) and a man in red (Morgan Cloud). By now we are fully involved in this physical storytelling and it becomes suddenly apparent how dance can be more direct and expressive than language. They literally support her. Standing on top of each she literally gains a new perspective. Tom Williams's music becomes faintly Chinese with a harmonious xylophone sound. It is unexpectedly tear-jerking when our heroine smiles for the first time.

But the relationship is hard to break. Man in blue is back but she gathers her past experiences to her breast and keeps her distance before finding new ways to relate to him. Crucially her friends are still on stage. Does man in blue find a threat in man in red - a colour match to his girlfriend? In an electrifying scene the two men dance together, nose to nose at one point in a terrifying stand off.

See it yourself to witness the ending to this riveting work. *Lost and Found* deserves a bigger audience. I have focused on the narrative, but the dancing itself is technically superb and exhilarating to watch. Time and again the balance between performers changes and they never get it wrong. At times there is a feeling of genuine danger. Man in blue slaps the shoulders of his girlfriend with a smack that resonates in the intimate drama studio. Both tense and tender, this is a stunning work from choreographer Katie Green.

Stephanie Billen