

THE IDIOT COLONY

Redcape Theatre

Directed by Andrew Dawson

Venue: Pleasance King Dome
Dates: 30–25 August (Previews 30–2 Aug)
Time: 13:10 (14:10)
Box Office: 0131 556 6550
Internet www.redcapetheatre.co.uk
www.pleasance.co.uk

“ ***** MIND BLOWING THEATRE THAT TACKLES THE APPALLING NATURE OF LONG BURIED EVENTS”

Three Weeks

****DIRECTED BY FRINGE FIRST AWARD WINNER, ANDREW DAWSON****

Three women have spent decades wandering the wards and corridors of **THE IDIOT COLONY**. Locked away for their illicit loves, they relive their faltering memories amidst the drugs, brutality and restraints of the Asylum.

THE IDIOT COLONY is a tragicomic expose of the forced incarceration of young women in mental asylums for crimes, largely determined by their accusers, ranging from illegitimate pregnancy to lesbianism, anti-social behaviour, being abused, even for being considered ‘too promiscuous’ or ‘flirtatious’. An original new work of devised theatre, **THE IDIOT COLONY** is a spectacular vision depicting human rights abuses not in some far off totalitarian state, but in recent history in our own backyard.

Based on real life accounts, **THE IDIOT COLONY** tells the story of lives forever destroyed for the crime of falling in love with the wrong person. Detained, often on the orders of family members for the sake of saving grace from social scandal, some would stay within the Asylum for the rest of their lives...

For the inmates of **THE IDIOT COLONY**, the only respite is the hospital’s hairdressing salon. In this haven of intimacy, laughter and eighties pop songs, they find endings to the stories they have waited so long to tell.

Genuinely moving, and humorous with beautiful visual imagery – **THE IDIOT COLONY** is a perfect hour, physically devised and performed, by Fringe First award winning actors/devisors, **Claire Coache, Rebecca Loukes, and Cassandra Friend (PIG IRON, THE RIOT GROUP, THE TRAVERSE THEATRE, EIF)**. **REDCAPE THEATRE** are a dynamic new ensemble formed by artists at the forefront of International theatre.

Notes to Editors:

The original inspiration for the play came from a story told by a hairdresser who worked in a salon inside a Midlands Mental Hospital in the 1980’s. She talked about some of the elderly long-term female patients who were in the hospital because they had had illegitimate babies by American GI’s. 50 years of Institutionalisation, drug treatments, electric shock therapies and in some cases neuro-surgery left these women permanently altered. The action in **The Idiot Colony** takes place inside a hairdressing salon inside a mental institution. The performers will set hair during the show including doing a ‘Rita Hayworth’

A recent news story featured Jean Gambell, freed after 70 years in mental institutions (and finally a care home for being wrongfully accused of stealing 2s 6d) died in October 2007.

laura cameron-lewis and jennifer williams

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