



The Guardian

Choreographer Kevin Finnan of Motionhouse Dance Theatre has created a new challenge for the dancers in Volatile. With the help of designer Simon Dorman, he has made a huge tubular aluminium frame within which all the of the action takes place. And it's certainly action, as the five performers crawl, swing, hang, dive, leap and balance amidst their metallic world, in a piece which looks at how we communicate and how easy it is for our meanings to be missed or misunderstood. This is physical and aerial theatre which stretches the muscles of the performers and the minds of the audiences.

Bill Harpe 4 October 2003

Bracknell and Wokingham Times

The Young Dancers of Tomorrow Witness a Triumph

Dance for young people landed at the Wilde Theatre at South Park Arts Centre. Evolving out of ballet and more traditional forms of dance, Motionhouse Dance Theatre's Volatile bursts with creativity and excitement.

Five athletic and funky dancers take to a three dimensional stage and set about executing a bewilderingly choreographed display of their talents. The exuberance and skill on show is breathtaking and the symbiotic manoeuvres they play out using ropes, cling-film and each other are extraordinary.

This is no stuffy, high-cultured, exclusive night out for old windbags. The theatre was packed with the young dancers of tomorrow from schools and dance clubs. The soundtrack to this 90 minutes of high octane intensity is adventurous and cutting edge.

Elements of hip-hop, drum and bass, latin salsa and even Sinatra envelop and enliven the sometimes brooding antics on stage.

6 November 2002

The Guardian

Founded by Kevin Finnan and Louise Richards in the 1980's, this ensemble has headed determinedly in the same direction, under the same leadership, for nearly 15 years now, This consistency has served as the basis for some of the most surprising, and physically explosive, of works.

The company's latest creation, devised by Finnan in collaboration with five acrobatic performers, is titled Volatile and explores the changing emotional states brought about by communication and miscommunication. With a set created by scaffolding, ropes, cling film and chairs - and the performers utilising aerial techniques - this is another Motionhouse production designed to provoke both thought and amazement.

Bill Harpe November 2002

The Stage

On a metallic bandstand style structure, three women and two men gyrate through a wide emotional gamut in Motionhouse's impressive new show.

Devised and choreographed by Kevin Finnan, it blends the purely physical pleasure of erotic combat with an intriguing dramatic sub-text. One of the main props is a case which may be some kind of Pandora's Box, and to which one of the men is very attached to the extent of performing a Gene Kelly style routine around it. Cards and scraps of paper also figure prominently, though their concealed message seems to promise frustration rather than fulfillment.

The soundtrack ranges from doomy to funky and includes an unexpected but superbly executed sequence to Sinatra's recording of 'What Now My Love'.

The members of the expressive but finely controlled ensemble are Vanessa Hoyle, Nikki O'Hara, Helen Parlour, Oliver Scott and Garry Tomlinson.

Running
dance

Roy M:

