

Review of *Behind the mirror*

Premiere: 04.12.13 Black Box Theatre, Oslo

Showbox, SUS (Performing arts hub Norway –young voices)

Behind the mirror is a show inspired by Alice in Wonderland. Before the premiere, we saw a choreography performed by 20 children from Skedsmo. We were impressed at how good the kids were! It is super cool that kids are performing. This is after all a festival that focuses on children and youth.

Before the show some of the kids came and gave us the programs for the evening. They also started to talk to us. They were super nice and it made it extra fun to watch them dance.

The performance of the children took place in the foajé, outside the theatre. In the room there were two large screens with images inspired by the fairy tale of Alice. On the tables stood bottles with notes labelled "drink me". This gave us a feeling of being part of the story, which we enjoyed very much.

When the children had finished dancing a man in a skirt came through the audience. He had a large pocket watch and said he was in a hurry. We immediately recognized the character from Alice in Wonderland. He made us all laugh when he ploughed his way through the audience with his trolley.

During the dance performance in the big hall, we heard many of the different events from Alice in Wonderland in the sound scape. Both the two sailors, pies, tea party and the rabbit was mentioned. I have read and seen other versions of Alice in Wonderland and it was incredibly interesting to compare the performance with other versions that I have seen and heard.

We at SUS (The performing arts hubs young voices) agree that Panta Rei Danseteater was able to describe the different events of the original piece in a very nice way. In addition it was presented in a more contemporary way, incorporating both dance and spoken text.

Parts of the dialogue were recorded in advance and incorporated into the sound scape. We enjoyed that very much. The sentences were often played several times, which gave us the feeling of being in the fairy-tale where everyone was crazy. The combination of Norwegian and English is not something I've heard so much of before, and it was exciting to experience something new. The variety of language reinforced the feeling that we were in the fairy-tale with Alice .

The crazy man in the play had good contact with the audience. He spoke several times to the children in the first row, it seemed like they enjoyed it. He also went up and talked to the rest of the audience. We at SUS think this was cool.

The dancers impressed us. Silje Bævre Lian and Stuart Waters was absolutely incredible! They were very talented. It was easy to see that there was a lot of practice required for the show. Both of the dancers were very good at immersing

themselves in the characters. One of the things we liked particularly well was how the dancers used the black jacket in the dance. The variety of dance in the play was good. This meant that it never got tedious.

Hanne Nemeth Lunde