

O(h)

Posted by Rosie Fernandez | Monday June 17, 2013

Company: casebolt and smith, Los Angeles, CA

Genre: Dance

Venue: 8 - The Rachel Browne Theatre

Polished dancers, and there is a charming, playful energy between them that easily transfers to the audience.

—Rosie Fernandez

(Reviewed at the Toronto Fringe Festival)

Liz Casebolt and Joel Smith bare it all for you onstage (almost literally), in a highly original performance that touches on gender issues, the creative process, appropriation, and the history of dance.

This likeable duo from L.A. are polished dancers, and there is a charming, playful energy between them that easily transfers to the audience. They clearly have thought seriously about dance, and present their conclusions to the audience with a cheeky nod to their influences.

Throughout the performance, they expose the thought process behind every move they make (for example, "I'm going to look in the mirror now"). It is much like watching a DVD with the director's commentary on the action. And while interesting, the gimmick can at times drag on.

One of the most entertaining moments of the show, though, is when Liz is challenged by Joel to invent a completely original dance move, which highlights the futility of such an exercise with comic flair.

Most will find something to enjoy in this, as there are parodies of popular dance moves from Martha Graham to Beyonce. But this play will be of special interest to those who have struggled with the creative process, and those who love dance.