

Theatre Review: If There's Not Dancing at the Revolution I'm Not Coming

Basement theatre, Saturday 17th June

Created and Performed by Julia Croft,
Directed by Virginia Frankovich.

Review by Mira Taitz

Julia Croft's *If there's not dancing at the revolution I'm not coming* feels familiar. The movies you've grown up with, the music videos you've seen, the tunes you've endured in the fluorescent hell of a St Luke's changing room.

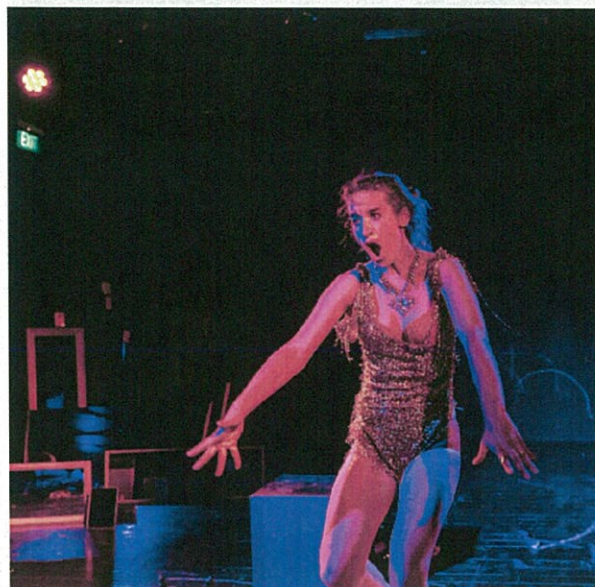
Even if you've been living under a rock like me, (whispers: "what's that?" "Notting Hill") you'll get the message.

Basically you're watching how pop culture treats women's bodies. Stuff you breathe every day, but this time you've got some badass feminist 3D glasses on. Where were you Julia Croft when I was watching *Titanic* in high school?

Croft effortlessly shows us how ridiculous and tragic this all is. Reading a movie script, her pace and tone are enough to have us in stitches. She doesn't need to lecture us: the material itself is ridiculous.

In 55 minutes Croft unpacks a rainbow of tropes about women as she takes off each layer of clothing to reveal a costume underneath: the French maid, the sweet girl next door, the music video dancer, the ballerina, the seductress. Finally, she reveals her naked body, but this is no striptease.

The show undercuts the male gaze and reveals how patriarchal pop culture stereotypes smother women. Laugh and be repulsed at how capitalism uses women's bodies to sell fast food and fizzy drink. You may never look at a combo



with chips and Coke the same way. It's fast and entertaining, a clever kaleidoscope of props, costumes, dancing and multimedia.

It was good to see the trigger warning on the door for themes of violence against women. I howled with laughter, was disturbed, and then unexpectedly found myself weeping quietly when the lights came up. Croft was fundraising to take her other show, *Power Ballad*, to the Edinburgh Fringe. I hope she's back soon. When she is, go and see her.. ■

Auckland Women's Centre



Contact & Services

Contact us

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www.awc.org.nz

Centre Hours

Monday to Friday
9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Library Hours

Monday to Friday
9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Services

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advice and referral
- + Community Education
- + Community Events
- + Counselling
- + LGBT support
- + Low Cost Massage
- + Self Defence Classes
- + Opportunities to talk
and support feminism
- + Diversity Forums
- + Support Groups