

Alan Lane On His Travels

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Alan Lane

Artistic Director of Slung Low (www.slunglow.org)

Theatre Director and creator of events.

Started using this for jobs in India and South Africa in 2010 but now just using it.

Thanks for stopping by.

Stilted performance and theatrical DNA

Caught a show today called Stilted starring Richard Antrobus. Richard is a Rhodes Uni graduate. Some will remember him from the original Bradford version of They Only Come at Night. He's a fierce physical performer, skillful, determined and seemingly impossible to destroy.

His show is the tale of a stilted performer spirit visiting an actor preparing for a performance off As You Like It. The stilted Antrobus terrorises the inept actor before blowing his mind with an enforced dance duet and by turning the closed circuit video camera on the audience thereby destroying the comforting fourth wall.

The theatrical arguments contained are the stuff of Pirandello and those meta theatre shows you see at the end of MA courses in performance. It's not that they are wrong, or uninteresting- just well travelled roads.

However what made the show so very entertaining and exciting was the sheer level of physical skill. They train them like that at Rhodes- full of inventiveness and what appears to be a complete disregard for physical well being. Stilted Richard leaps over tables, turning full circle around a raised bed before leaping on to a full size trampoline. In a studio theatre.

There seems to be some sort of silk route between Rhodes and West Yorkshire- we've had a few of the guys from here over there at different points the last few years. I'm by no means saying that they have all been head and shoulders better than the UK performers but it has to be said that, whatever their other attributes, they have all to a man been incredibly well trained clowns and physical performers- and certainly mime skills that you just don't see in the UK often enough given how many mime and clown shows we see in our venues

