

Clockfire Theatre Company

RUINS أطلال



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"Conceptualised and directed by the formidable duo of Emily Ayoub and Madeline Baghurst...the show is beautiful ... with incredible configurations of bodies in space" *Suzy Wrong, Suzy Goes See*

"a masterful and punchy piece of physical theatre ... a prompt reminder of the benefit of smaller-scale theatre. You get to see the actors in the heat of battle, the sweat beading on their foreheads, you see the endless hours of blocking manifest themselves in beautifully crisp staging. "Billy Chapman, *Theatre Thoughts*

"a stunningly beautiful work of visual metaphor... (a) splendid meditation on connection and loss ... both evocative and provocative. " *Paul Gilchrist, Theatre Red*

"... masterfully crafted ...a raw emotional quest ... a standout production in the current theatrical landscape" *Nola Bartolo, Theatre Travels*

"... a production that is both visually stunning and thematically profound. "RUINS رُيُوس" ... a love letter to Lebanon and the Lebanese diaspora, channelling feelings of helplessness regarding the current events in Lebanon and Palestine. This personal connection adds layers of authenticity and urgency to the narrative." *Nola Bartolo, Theatre Travels*

"This one is for every Lebanese person who feels stuck, scared or in a state of ruin. I hope we all remain intact and standing tall like the temple of Baalbek. Our past, present and future depends on this." *Valerie Chidiac, Honi Soit*

"The staging was impressive ... an emotionally driven movement performance that explores the cultural experience of many migrant Australians whilst continuing exploration of their own heritage." *Grace Cooper, Stagedoor Podcast*

"This beautiful story of an Australian mum visiting her ancestral home in Lebanon and digging in ancient ruins for her roots is so artfully told, it leaves you wanting more...Clockfire are ... making magic on this tiny stage downstairs at Belvoir." *Martin Portus, Stage Whispers*

"Theatrical imagery is one of Clockfire's strengths ... the minimalist use of props to create winding hallways, an archaeological dig, and a hotel lobby ... is impressive... Ruins combines emotive storytelling and polished theatrical imagery to engage with difficult and sensitive subject matter. " *Charlotte Smees, TimeOut*

"The storytelling is sophisticated, elaborate, visually stunning and delivered in slick swathes. Use of props from a door to fabric as quickly morphing set structure moments is expert and fresh. The emotion, physicality and pace of this play is directed with finesse and a beautiful feel from the ensemble team by Emily Ayoub ... and Madeline Baghurst.' *Paul Nolan, Sydney Arts Guide*

"A riveting piece of physical, emotional theatre ... rich in theatrical treasures that unearth emotions and warmth buried recently or long ago ...this short theatre event packs quite a punch with expressive tools to create a dreamlike reality-meets-fantasy ...we are touched by this small work's huge humanity. *Paul Nolan, Sydney Arts Guide*

“We think of Australia as multicultural, and it has been in the last couple of centuries. But the city of Baalbek has ebbed and flowed for the last eleven thousand years ... It has been home to Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans, and Mongols. It is not only pre-biblical; it is pre-historical. Productions like *Ruins* give us a taste of the mythology, the culture and stories that have travelled here and which continue to take root and proliferate.’ *Billy Chapman, Theatre Thoughts*

“On top of the physical performance, the show was framed wonderfully through sound and light. Johnny Yang’s composition of both prerecorded and live played composition added astounding depth to the show, and flautist Jessica Scott uplifted Yang’s vision powerfully ... projection design by Laura Turner, connected both the Ancient and Modern world, making memory more powerful, and adding emotional emphasis to the audience. Lighting design by Frankie Clarke was simple, but made bold statements, illuminating the space that made you feel immersed” *Lulu, The Young Syd Review*

4 stars “It’s quite rare that I watch a piece of independent theatre and leave pondering its beauty, but *Ruins* is exactly that. Beautiful....*Ruins* travels to lofty places with the simplest of theatrical techniques and excellent storytelling skills” *Chad Armstrong, Cultural Binge*