



A HAUNTING TALE IN THE CASTLEMAINE OLD GAOL : CHANTS DES CATACOMBES

CHANTS DES CATACOMBES is a macabre musical theatre experience, weaving popular and classical songs with dark stories of sex, love and femininity.

"In CHANTS DES CATACOMBES audience members travel through many spaces within the Gaol, it's immersive promenade theatre in Castlemaine's most evocative space," says director Bryce Ives.

"Our aim is to tap into the senses: smell, sight, sound and memory. The stories of our three murdered women plays out in small spaces, large spaces, on harps and violins, through Hip Hop and Opera. Peculiar, surprising and enjoyable."

A near-death experience for creator Anna Boulic provided the kernel that led to creating CHANTS DES CATACOMBES.

"I fell off my bicycle, and broke my ankle. The most traumatic moment of the accident came when a car passed within centimetres of my head. The realisation that it could have been much worse used to make me shiver," says Anna Boulic.

Her ten-minute performance won the 2010 Short+Sweet Cabaret Festival, and evolved into a much larger collaboration, consisting ten artists including an Opera Director, a Scent Alchemist, architectural lighting designer and a choreographer. Music became a major component of the work; popular songs re-imagined with horrific twists.

"CHANTS DES CATACOMBES is a little story about three murdered women: a showgirl, a surgeon and a courtesan. The innocence of each woman has been stripped. For these three dead women history has turned the page, yet they continue to walk restlessly up and down the dark corridors of the Catacombs, remembering and forgetting," says Anna Boulic.

"We were greeted by three haunting voices, Anna Boulic, Laura Burzacott, and Zoe McDonald, who created a blend of celestial sound whilst moving dangerously close through the crowd. Immediately we were shown that this was not a night for the lazy or uninspired; this was theatre for those who want shock, surprise and intrigue... The song choices were wonderful, the actors heavenly, and the space divine. This was a perfect piece of engaging contemporary theatre. Let's hope they do a remount soon." Kate Boston Smith, Arts Hub

Performing with the quirky music duo The Twoks, and with a selection of evening and late night shows on throughout the festival, this sell-out show from both Melbourne and Adelaide Fringe is a not to be missed event.

Festival online details: <http://castlemainefestival.com.au/2013/chants-des-catacombes/>

Details:

Dates & Times: 15 – 23 March, times vary (check online)

Admission: \$30/\$25 Limited tickets per performance

Venue: Castlemaine Old Gaol, Bowden St Castlemaine