



Closeup, Stage Fright, The Role: The DESZKA Festival of Modern Hungarian Dramas

Bettina Veisz | KULTUR | April 24, 2018

Those who were persistent enough to sacrifice their time and be present for the performance at the main stage on Wednesday evening was witness to the most outstanding play of the whole festival. Hathazi Andras, actor of the Northern Theater of Satu Mare, had a huge impact on the public with his mono-drama. This genre is very risky, and there are only two possibilities: you reach the heavens or you are cast into hell. Fortunately for us, Hathazi's play had energy and was humorous, a result of the creative toolset of the director, Tom Dugdale, that rewarded the public an exciting, instructive experience. Even the name of the performance, *Fifteen Attempts at Acting*, speaks for itself, as we examine fifteen variants of the problems of the acting profession with specific references to the role of Hamlet. A commendable aspect of this performance, which attempts to solve some of the most elementary dilemmas of acting, was that the script was created cooperatively by Dugdale and Hathazi, director and performer. Who is an actor? Does acting require presence, awareness, discovery? Might community with the public be established through just the recitation of children's song? Might the theater be devouring itself? As viewers, we hear but ultimately set aside these questions, as the well-executed performance holds us with its natural, effortless process.