

Teatro Delusio

An Grianan, Letterkenny

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The audience can be forgiven for thinking that the play hasn't yet started when they see props being adjusted on stage. The scene is set backstage in a theatre. Three stage technicians open the door to the many different dimensions of the human condition.

Floz Productions kicked off the Donegal Earagail Arts Festival with a mesmerising Irish premiere of *Teatro Delusio*. Three German actors play out 29 characters in a wordless world of masked emotions. With 75 costume changes between them, the audience are pulled between two dramas. One front stage the other backstage.

The story unfolds; the audience is invited to participate in the three technicians' hopes and dreams, as they live and work in the shadow of an egotistical director and a cast of glamorous stars. All that separates each world is a thin curtain and public applause. Now it is the technicians' turn to move from the darkness into the limelight and as they struggle to keep control of the show, we see how their fantasies emerge and collide.

Enter the orchestra, the comedy, and the dreams. Heart-wrenching operatic arias dictate the mood of the play, as the audience are carried deeper into their own imagination. Hilarious and yet tragic, different realities develop through fight scenes, love triangles, deadly intrigues, divas and dance.

Inspired in part, by the spirit of Commedia Del Arte, the cast prove themselves masters of this unique form. Few companies use mask and mime in such a vivid and innovative way as this.

Under the direction of Michael Vogel, actors Paco Gonzalez, Bjorn Leese and Hajo Schuler leave the audience entranced. This is proved by the standing ovation at the end of the performance.

The elaborate costumes, the combination of music, mask and cartoon-like clowning, make *Teatro Delusio* a breath of fresh air. Tonight marks its last performance in Ireland; if possible go and see it.

