

Circa Review

One of the first performances of Salisbury International Arts Festival, Circa was able to reveal what the human body can be capable of.

With the grace of ballet dancers and the nerve of soldiers, the Australian company Circa was able to reveal what the human body is capable of, to some extremities.

Each multi-skilled performer took turns to demonstrate their unlimited range of talents in ingenious and invigorating ways. The supernatural strength of the ensemble was incredible, the utter power of the seven artists inconceivable. "People have said to us it was like watching super heroes," said one of the performers Emma McGovern, on her way out.

At points the audience would become part of the act. In unison the spectators would gasp, as an acrobat supported their own body weight with two fingers, or when another held a performer standing on his shoulders, with another on his. The silent interaction with the audience was cleverly devised, using the more traditional circus methods of mime with music: music that could miraculously transport, and yet, in moments of stillness, alert.

Another element that entranced was the lighting. Usually lighting merely assists the act, here it ignited the performance and demonstrated artistic skill, both inspiring and delighting the audience, especially with shadows.

This one-off performance was certainly impossible to miss; impossible to describe; impossible to forget. So if you ever get the chance to see Circa, it would be impossible not to take it.

Laura Simpkins