

Salisbury International Arts Festival 2011

Brocante Sonore – The Mechanics Salisbury Playhouse

In 2010 French company Zic Zazou opened Salisbury International Arts Festival in the Market Place with The Kiosk. Now they have returned with another great show. Billed as being similar to STOMP, The Mechanics featured nine men in overalls making all sorts of different music using household objects such as pots and pans and industrial tools such as angle grinders. My favourite section was at the end, when they played tunes on a row of bottles by blowing into them.

I was impressed when one of the performers told me afterwards that as well as performing the show, they all made the set themselves. The company, which is based in Amiens in Northern France, has nine performers and five shows in its repertoire. The company has been touring internationally since 1990.

The only improvement I could suggest to what was a very entertaining piece. would be to have an interval. However, this family show went down very well with the audience; teenagers and adults were clapping and laughing, and, like me, they loved it. I would recommend Brocante Sonore to anyone.

Kevin Follett Young Critic