

# British Theatre Guide

News, reviews, features and podcast on theatre across the UK

## Dolls

Rostislav Novak, choreographers Jozef Frucek & Linda Kapetanea

Cirk La Putyka

Underbelly's Circus Hub on the Meadows

7–29 August 2015



*Dolls* is the best of the combinations of theatre and physical theatre.

We are drawn in from the moment we walk into the space. At the back of the playing area are the performers in cubes four across and two deep awash with clutter and fog. A young man takes over the space with unnervingly ape-like moves. And we are captured.

It's as if they collected the fringes of society, the misfits, the wild, and told them "you shouldn't do that" or "you won't be able to do that" or "please, PLEASE don't do that" and that's just what they've up and done. And so well!

They are wild and violent and funny and amazing. They throw each other around the stage and onto huge soft structures. They litter the space with things coming from all directions through a cloud of smoke. They tumble and twirl and hang and swing. They jump and contort themselves. They are the dolls and they play with dolls.

This is very unlike any of the toys that we grew up with. These are circus performers and dancers and actors. This is brilliantly choreographed and staged.

It's very dark but exciting to watch. It makes Cirque du Soleil look tame.

**Reviewer:** [Catherine Henry Lamm](#)