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Gothenburg English Speaking Theatre |

Stones in his pocket

THEATER

Gothenburg English Speaking Theatre at Teater Trixter | Stones in his pocket

by Marie Jones

Director: Malachi Bogdanov

Set design: Ger Olde Monnikhof

Cast: Gary Whitaker and Mike Rogers

Stones in his Pockets for GEST, is the actors production and triumph! Writes Linda Isaakson.

The transformation process is possibly the actors' primary mystery and challenge; to change form and then be able to create a character. To say that the ensemble in Stones in his Pockets; Gary Whitaker and Mike Rogers master this art would be an understatement. They multiply themselves time after time through small, genius physical and verbal means and it feels almost surreal to think that it is only the two of them that inhabited the stage for almost two hours. This is the actor's production and triumph.

The shift between characters is performed elegantly and simply with the minimum use of costume. A hand is swept hastily through the hair or behind the ear. Imaginary glasses are pushed back up the nose, eye focus changes and there is a smorgasbord of accents. Magic and nothing less. The director Malachy Bogdanov must have felt like a child at Christmas as he carefully steered his actors towards his vision.

The playwright, Marie Jones is equally praised and acclaimed as this play, which has traveled around the world. A tiny village in County Kerry is invaded by an American film crew and half of the towns' inhabitants are working as film extras. Life itself becomes the backdrop. The set designed by Ger Olde Monnikhof is tastefully sparse with silhouettes of trees and clouds and a few wooden chairs. Emotional songs and flickering candlelight transforms the film recording into an Irish wake.

The Irish underdog mentality is felt in the play. A feeling of being invaded, used and spat upon is something that the 'Emerald Isle' can relate to. If you walk away conquered or strengthened depends on many factors. Here it is the hope that wins through and so it is with GEST and to say a big thank you for bringing contemporary drama in its original language to Gothenburg.