CORR BLIMEY

REVIEWS, NEWS & PREVIEWS – EDITED BY DOMINIC CORR

REVIEW: AN-KI

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Review by Dominic Corr

*Editor for **Corr Blimey**, and a freelance critic for Scottish publications, **Dominic** has been writing freelance for several established and respected publications such as **BBC Radio Scotland, The Skinny, Edinburgh Festival Magazine, The Reviews Hub, In Their Own League The Wee Review** and **Edinburgh Guide**. As of 2023, he is a member of the **Critic's Award for Theatre Scotland (CATS)** and a member of the **UK Film Critics.***

For immersive theatre, of the puppetry variety no less, **Cia. Ortiga's** *An-Ki* is a powerfully poetic experience for young audiences to come face-to-face with the origins and destiny of humanity in a safe and intimate space.

A mixture of environmental crisis and fantasy, encroaching shadows cover the forests just outside Adja's hometown, perfectly emulated in a tent located in the **Summerhall Courtyard.** Audiences wander int**o** a scaled-down world of miniature trees, homes, and ships, and eventually, we are introduced to Adja themselves – an intricate puppet full of life and magic, brought to life with **Ingrid Codina** and **Guillem Geronès** marvellously realised writing that channels contemporary concerns of the environment into a timeless sense of storytelling.

Separating the audience into smaller groups, we receive a far more wonderous sense of exploration and scale, the process of interactive puppetry continues this festival's determination to draw the audience closer to the performance space – encouraging us to explore, plant seeds and breathe in the same air as the slumbering giant. The rasping sounds of the sea and ships' cabins all whirl together in a terrific design.

Emerging from the shadows, it's unlikely any of the audience will leave with the same mindset as they entered in this promenade style of puppetry theatre where imagination firmly roots itself with reality, fruiting into a superb production, and one of the festival's highlights.

AN-Ki – Cia. Ortiga, Catalonia

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Brilliantly inventive … An-Ki by Cia Ortega.

Review

Edinburgh international children's festival review – sensory magic and complex ideas made fun

Various venues, Edinburgh

From a gentle exploration of tubes and spheres to a forthright examination of climate change, immersive puppetry and minimalist narrators, this is mesmerising for families and children alike

Is immersive puppetry a thing? It is the only way to describe another Catalan show, An-Ki by Cia Ortiga, a brilliantly inventive response to the environmental crisis. We gather at the centre of a dimly lit tent to watch a stream of sand forming an undulating landscape. We see it populated by miniature trees, then a house and, finally, a girl called Adja who nestles into her favourite branches.

The scale shifts with the arrival of a giant who scoops up the scene in one go. All that remains is Adja's family home, a solitary tree and a devastated land where the only fruit is scrap metal.

The true wonder begins as we divide into groups and enter a series of spaces around the tent: a room full of flotsam where we plant a seed; the creaking cabin of a ship where the giant sleeps and his dreams play out; a domestic interior where a tap becomes a seahorse. We return to where we began for a spectacular sea storm and the magical return of life. Written and directed by Íngrid Codina and Guillem Geronès, every detail is exquisitely realised, every moment beguiling.