

How do you Like my Landscapes: The Herald 10/5/8

5 HOW DO YOU LIKE MY LANDSCAPE TRAMWAY, GLASGOW, THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, 8PM

Hidden meanings usually lurk in the words we use or the way we say them. Cue the gagster's pauses tinged with nods and winks to egg us on. Then the smirking cries of "ooh, you are awful" that reproach us for correctly spotting the naughty possibilities in a phrase or a joke. Because, somehow, it's not "nice" or "proper" to let others know you know the dirty details and – worse still – find them funny. Oo-er, missus and titter ye not.

It's this double standard that Belgian duo Manah Depauw and Bernard van Eeghem find fascinating, ridiculous and ripe for satirical attack. They've also found other, highly imaginative ways to convey the saucy urges and dark desires that polite society prefers to keep under wraps – or indeed, buried. The result is a series of four short time-travelling episodes – beginning with Genesis and reaching Apocalypse – where they set up model landscapes in which the human body is present. But not necessarily in the ways we might expect.

As their tranquil topography begins to heave with pent-up forces, what initially seems a jolly bit of wish-fulfilment where adults play with miniature props that were unaffordable on childhood pocket-money, gradually twists into a cogent, mischievous reflection on the political correctness that drives man's beastly instincts underground to seethe and even erupt. Here's the nod: there are only two performances, Tramway 4 has limited capacity ... nudge, nudge, know what I mean? ■

