

# Theatre Review: Mazing @ The Place

Dovydas Laurinaitis at Central School of Speech & Drama (in London)

12th April 2017

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In Vera Tussing's new work, the idea of how we communicate as human beings in 2017 is brought to the forefront.

Staged in the round, with four walls of chairs encompassing a square of white flooring, we entered the space leaving behind our coats and shoes. It set the scene for us being more than spectators; ready to work to a degree.



*Image courtesy of Alessandra Roccheri*

Running at the one-hour mark, the piece itself is based around the interactions and experimentations of the five performers within an overarching structure. Commands are relayed to the sound and lighting engineer – ‘music’, ‘smoke machine’, and the most frequent – ‘restart’.

Moving through contact improvisation with each other and the audience, the performers made and lost contact; strived for connections which grew and fell apart. What this highlighted was the volume of people we have access to right now. How easily we can get in touch with each other, yet how difficult maintaining that touch is.

Coming out of the room, I immediately questioned how much we were asked to interact during our time there. There was nothing to stopping us from joining them in the space, rather at times, glints of encouragement were felt.

At the end it became quite clear, when the performers quite literally moved members of the audience into the middle of the space, as well as trying to connect to us, more importantly they were trying to make us connect with the space, and those around us.