

Love Story, Chichester/Cart Macabre, Old Vic Tunnels, review

An unashamed weepy and a terrifying journey into the underworld. Love Story: * *; Cart Macabre: * * * *



Emma Williams and Michael Xavier in Love Story Photo: ALASTAIR MUIR

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One show that has transferred, despite my giving it a pretty good drubbing when it opened in Chichester, is the stage musical version of *Love Story*. Even I am prepared to admit that Rachel Kavanaugh's stylish production is superior to the soppy film, and Howard Goodall's music is both haunting and tuneful. Meanwhile Stephen Clark's book and lyrics boast moments of wit amid the maudlin slush and Emma Williams has great charm as the doomed Jenny. If you like the movie then you will probably love this. But art, even popular entertainment, should aspire to something more than getting audiences to sob into their Kleenexes.

I don't want to say too much about *Cart Macabre* in the cellarge beneath Waterloo station, for mystery is of the essence here. The audience is trundled around in carts, the darkness so profound that you cannot see your hand in front of your face and every few minutes a surprise is sprung, with some superb sound and visual effects. In this journey through the underworld, you feel both terrifyingly powerless and unexpectedly liberated.

Are you brave enough to take the trip?

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Love Story tickets: 0844 412 2962

Cart Macabre tickets: 0844 871 7627

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