

Cart Macabre

Until Wed Dec 22 [Old Vic Tunnels](#), Station Approach Rd, SE1 7NN [Full details & map](#)

Theatre: Fringe Critics' choice



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Time Out says

By **Caroline McGinn**

Posted: Wed Dec 8 2010

The Old Vic tunnels have become the capital's most extraordinarily evolving performance space, housing original work by Punchdrunk and Banksy's recent movie. Dartington College of Arts graduates Living Structures are not yet so illustrious. But their underworld art-train, which takes 32-people in hooded carts to some dark and astonishing places, should transport Klaus Kruse's ravishingly serious young collective to success.

Londoners spend much of their lives jam-packed in brightly lit transit from A to B. But it's the mysterious one-way trip from birth to death that inspires this pitch-black ride with strangers: before it begins, you empty your pockets into a clear plastic bag then lie down alone like a corpse on a gurney, to be wheeled by sailors down into a black cavern.

When you're transferred to one of eight rickety four-man carts, a siren shanty full of haunting harmonies calls you to a place where your flesh will dissolve. Verity Standon's lusciously arranged a capella music is one of the wonders of a trip which makes you listen with your eyes, see with your ears and question what on earth it is that we're in such a rush to get to. Peepholes open so you can see, smell and even touch the living sculptures. Some tableaux are powerful: in a bedsit, tilted by 90 degrees so we seem to be gazing down past a spinning lightbulb in its ceiling, a beautiful girl lies on a dingy mattress and sings; on a film screen reflected in a chilly lake, hands tear a heart apart then put it back together.

Parallels with the death-trains of the twentieth century do feel unexplored. But 'Cart Macabre' is unique - like being a human piece shaken around a giant kaleidoscope, whose fragmentary images make a random pattern whose meaning is elusive. [Less](#)

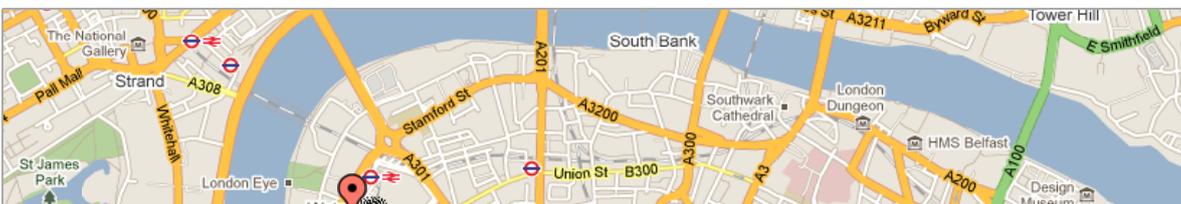
Old Vic Tunnels details

[Old Vic Tunnels](#) ,
Station Approach Rd, SE1 7NN
Transport Waterloo

Thur-Sun 4pm, 7.45pm and 10pm; Tue-Wed 6pm and 8.45pm

£14

Old Vic Tunnels map





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2 comments

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This is one of the best things I've seen in London in the past three months. The concept and the ride (pardon the pun) is an experience unlike any other!

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Posted by **Matthew Wills** on Dec 9 2010 12:41am

Been looking forward to this for ages!!

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Posted by **Graeme Martin** on Dec 5 2010 7:23am