

# There Ought To Be Clowns

Don't bother, I'm here...

MONDAY, 6 DECEMBER 2010

## Review: Cart Macabre, Old Vic Tunnels



*"Keep your hands inside the cart..."*

Two years in the making, Living Structures' immersive theatre show [Cart Macabre](#) takes over the Old Vic Tunnels for December and it is thanks to the lovely, ever-hard-working Jake at [A Younger Theatre](#) (a highly

recommended site) who let me know about this show in good time to grab tickets before they quickly sold out. Mining a similar furrow to shows like [You Me Bum Bum Train](#), it mixes the concepts of theatre and installation to create something unique, in this case, a nightmarish ghost train ride through the cavernous space under Waterloo.

After emptying our pockets and being given personalised luggage labels, we're wheeled off into the dark, one by one, on individual flat wheelbarrows by silent cast members dressed in sailors' uniforms: it's a slightly unnerving and highly effective beginning as we're then guided onto carts in the pitch black as a haunting voice fill the air and splits into a multitude of harmonies. Somewhat disorientated, the four-person carts then start to move and the journey begins.

We're then taken on a voyage through a succession of theatrical vignettes, animations, performance art pieces, videos, shadow puppetry, all revealed to us through peepholes and shutters, as the carts rocket round the space in the Old Vic Tunnels, sometimes feeling like it is a train on tracks, sometimes wheeling round in circles, at one point evoking the movement of floating entirely convincingly. We become voyeur, victim, viewer, complicit yet exposed as the heavy symbolism of death, limbo and the afterlife envelops us, bodies descend from above into the carts, our belongings float pass in plastic bags, masked figures poke and prod in a twisted take on a carnival. Everything is held together through the highly affecting use of song: mournful folk melodies, redolent of the sea, echo around, with solos and beautifully harmonious choruses floating by.

It was all really rather well done, the whole approach is so disorientating that one really doesn't know what to anticipate next. The quality of the experiences varied somewhat but the level of expectation was always nerve-tingling as the unexpectedness of so much that happens never really dissipates. The cart hurtles with such



Reviews of plays what I have seen in London town and beyond.

### Top 10 of 2009

1. The Roman Tragedies
2. Our Class
3. When The Rain Stops Falling
4. Hello, Dolly!
5. La Cage Aux Folles
6. A Streetcar Named Desire
7. Arcadia
8. Enron
9. Sweet Charity
10. Priscilla Queen of the Desert



### Blog Archive

▼ 2010 (293)

▼ December (10)

Review: Love Story, Duchess

Review: A Flea In Her Ear, Old Vic

Review: Cart Macabre, Old Vic Tunnels

Review: Dick Whittington and his Cat, Lyric Hammer...

Review: A Christmas Carol, Theatre Delicatessen

Review: King Lear, Donmar Warehouse

force at some points that the woman next to me was clinging onto my arm for dear life, despite us having never met nor able to see each other's face. Once it finishes, there is the opportunity to walk around the performance space with the lights on and to discover how the magic was carried out. It is nicely illuminating and in a couple of cases highly revelatory (I couldn't believe how simply the 'floating' was done, given how effective it was).

Cart Macabre is sold out now, but I would say it is well worth keeping an eye out for returns as it is huge amounts of fun. I'm not entirely convinced of how strongly a narrative was developed or the true depth it achieves given the time taken to move between sections, but I think it is actually stronger for this. As a multi-sensory thrill, as a fairground ride into the dark unknown, it delivers a highly enjoyable experience, especially to those new to immersive theatre, and is certainly the best thing I've seen in the Old Vic Tunnels this year.

Running time: 90 minutes (no interval)

Programme cost: free cast sheet available

Booking until 22nd December

Note: some strobe lighting and not one for those afraid of small dark spaces! And you are asked to surrender all your possessions into a plastic bag before boarding which is fine, but my friend's iPhone was returned to him with a cracked screen so maybe keep a hold of your phone...

PS: if by chance you have a spare ticket, then please contact [this laydee](#) as due to the forced rescheduling that we had to do, she missed out on coming with us

Posted by Ian at [15:36](#)

Labels: [Living Structures](#), [Old Vic Tunnels](#)

0 comments:

### Post a Comment

Comment as: Select profile...

Post Comment

Preview

Review: Season's Greetings, National Theatre

Review: My Dad's A Birdman, Young Vic

Review: Black Watch, Barbican

Christmas Music Review: Kristin Chenoweth's A Love...

- ▶ November (29)
- ▶ October (36)
- ▶ September (28)
- ▶ August (11)
- ▶ July (21)
- ▶ June (35)
- ▶ May (20)
- ▶ April (28)
- ▶ March (27)
- ▶ February (20)
- ▶ January (28)
  
- ▶ 2009 (111)
- ▶ 2008 (18)
- ▶ 2007 (21)
- ▶ 2006 (8)
- ▶ 2005 (8)
- ▶ 2004 (4)

### About Me



Ian

Write me at [ianfoster32@gmail.com](mailto:ianfoster32@gmail.com)

[View my complete profile](#)

### Links to other theatre sites

[Up The West End](#)

[The Public Reviews](#)

[Theatre Monkey](#)

[Official London Theatre](#)

[The Stage](#)

[What's On Stage](#)

Other great theatre reviewers to read

[Newer Post](#)

[Home](#)

[Older Post](#)

Subscribe to: [Post Comments \(Atom\)](#)

 **Traffic Light Theatregoer**  
The Hamlet Identity

 **Stage: Theatre blog | guardian.co.uk**  
Enough scare stories about children's theatre, please

**Musings of a Theatrigirl**  
Pins and Needles, Cock Tavern Theatre: review

**Life in the Cheap Seats - Webcowgirl's London theatre reviews**  
Review - Matthew Bourne's 2010 "Cinderella" - Sadler's Wells Theatre

**West End Whingers**  
Review - Season's Greetings, Lyttelton Theatre

**Gareth's Culture and Travel Blog**  
The Master Builder

 **The Tyro Theatre Critic**  
Love Story

 **Interval Drinks**  
Quality Street at the Finborough Theatre

 **Glen's Theatre Blog**  
Jack And The Beanstalk - New Wolsey Theatre

**A Younger Theatre**  
Review: Dick Whittington and his Cat

 **Boycotting Trends: Movie, Music & More Musings**  
Review: A Flea In Her Ear (Old Vic)

**Rev Stan's theatre blog**  
'Tis the Season's Greetings

 **NotTheWestEndWhingers**  
Cinderella - Sadler's Wells - Saturday 4th December 2010

**Sans Taste**  
Good week / Bad week

 **A KICK IN THE STALLS**  
A Star is re-Born

 **The Play's The Thing**  
Review: Iolanthe (Union Theatre)

 **LondonTheatreGoer**  
Red Bud by Brett Neveu, Royal Court Upstairs - Directed by Jo McInnes

## Labels

Adam James (2) Adjoa Andoh (3) Adrian Lester (2) **Adrian Scarborough (5)** Ako Mitchell (2) Akram Khan (2) Alan Bennett (2) Alan Pearson (2) Alastair MacKenzie (2) Alex Gaumond (3) Alex Jennings (3) Alex Palmer (1) Alex Waldmann (3) Alexandra Gilbreath (3) Alexia Khadime (2) Alfred Molina (1) Alicia Davies (4) Alistair McGowan (1) Ally Holmes (2) Amanda Drew (3) Amanda Lawrence (2) Amy Lennox (2) Anastasia Hille (2) Andrea Riseborough (1) Andrew Lincoln (2) Andrew Scott (4) Aneurin Barnard (2) Angus Wright (4) Anna Carteret (2) Anna Chancellor (2) Anna Francolini (3) Anna Madeley (1) Anna Maxwell Martin (1) Annalisa Rossi (3) Anne-Marie Duff (2) Anthony Calf (2) Anton Lesser (1) Anton Stephans (1) Aoife Mulholland (3) Ayesha Dharker (1) Aïcha Kossoko (3) Barbara Flynn (2) Barbara Marten (4) Barnaby Kay (4) Ben James-Ellis (2) Ben Whishaw (2) Benedict Cumberbatch (1) Bertie Carvel (2) Beverley Rudd (1) Blake Ritson (1) Brian Ferguson (2) Brindley Sherratt (1) Cal MacAninch (1) Calderon de la Barca (1) Carl Mullaney (3) Carl Prekopp (1) Carl Sanderson (2) Caroline Keiff (2) Caroline O'Connor (2) Cassidy Janson (2) Cassie Compton (2) Catherine Cusack (2) **Celia Imrie (5)** Charity Wakefield (1) Charles Dance (1) Charles Edwards (3) Charlie Covell (1) Charlie Cox (1) Charlotte Randle (4) Charlotte Wakefield (2) Chris Ellis-Stanton (4) Chris Fountain (1) Chris New (2) Chris Nietvelt (2) Christian Camargo (2) Christine Entwistle (2) Christopher Ecclestone (1) Chuk Iwuji (3) Cian Barry (1) Ciaran McConville (1) Claire Cox (4) Claire Skinner (2) Clare Higgins (3) Clive Carter (2) Clive Rowe (3) Colin Tierney (2) Conleth Hill (2) Conor Doyle (3) Conor Mitchell (1) Cora Bissett (2) Corey Turner (1) Cush Jumbo (1) **Dame Judi Dench (5)** Dame Maggie Smith (1) Damian Lewis (1) **Dan Stevens (5)** Daniel Boys (5) Daniel Clarkson (1) Daniel Crossley (2) Daniel Hawksford (2) Daniela Nardini (1) David Annen (4) David Burt (2) David Furnell (2) David Harewood (3) David Horovitch (3) David Morrissey (1) David Ricardo-Pearce (3) David Suchet (1) David Tennant (1) David Troughton (3) Dearbhla Molloy (2) Deborah Findlay (4) Denise Van Outen (3) Derek Jacobi (3) Dermot Crowley (3) Dharmesh Patel (2) Dianne Pilkington (1) Dominic Cooper (1) Dominic Rowan (4) Dominic West (2) Donna King (2) Douglas Hodge (2) Dyfan Dwyfor (2) **Ebony Molina (3)** Ed Stoppard (1) Eddie Redmayne (1) Edward Bennett (3) Edward Hogg (1) Elena Roger (4) Elizabeth McGovern (1) Ella Smith (2) Ellen Sheehan (1) **Elliot Cowan (9)** **Elliot Levey (6)** Emily Taaffe (2) Emma Dewhurst (1) Ethan Hawke (3) Faye Castelow (3) **Felix Scott (6)** Fenella Woolgar (2) Ferdinand Kingsley (2) Ferdy Roberts (2) Finbar Lynch (2) Finty Williams (2) Fiona Button (3) Fiona Shaw (4) Forbes Masson (1) Frances Barber (3) Frances De La Tour (1) Frances Ruffelle (1) Francesca Annis (1) Frank McGuinness (3) Fred Ridgeway (2) **G+S (3)** Gabrielle Lloyd (1) Gareth Gates (4) Gary Milner (3) Gavin Harrison (2) Gawn Grainger (4) Gaye Brown (3) Gemma Arterton (2) Gemma Jones (1) Gemma Saunders (2) Geoffrey Streatfeild (2) George Bernard Shaw (2) George Potts (2) George Rainsford (3) Gerard McDermott (1) Gillian Anderson (1) Gina McKee (2) Glyn Kerlake (2) Gugu Mbatha-Raw (1) Gwilym Lee (3) Gwilym Lloyd (1) Hanif Kureishi (1) **Hannah Waddingham (6)** Hans Kesting (4) Harriet Ryder (1) Harriet Walter (1) Harry Hadden-Paton (3) Harry Lloyd (1) Harry McEntire (2) Harry Melling (2) Harry Treadaway (4) Hasina Haque (3) Hattie Morahan (4) Haydn Gwynne (1) Hayley Atwell (1) Helen Dallimore (4) Helen McCrory (3) Helen Mirren (1) Helen Schlesinger (3) Helena Blackman (2) Helena Lymbery (1) Henry Goodman (4) Henry Lloyd Hughes (3) Honeysuckle Weeks (2) Iain Glen (2) Ian McDiarmid (2) Ian McKellen (2) Ian McNeice (1) Imelda Staunton (4) Indira Varma (2) Issy van Randwyck (2) Jacob Casselden (2) Jade Williams (4) James Fleet (4) James Graham (2) James Laurenson (4) Jamie Birkett (2) Jamie Parker (3) Jane Horrocks (1) Janet McTeer (1) Janine DuVitski (2) Jason Pennycooke (3) Jeffery Kissoon (3) Jemima Rooper (3) Jenna Russell (2) Jennifer Biddall (1) Jenny Galloway (3) Jenny Jules (2) Jenny Seagrove (3) Jessica Hynes (1) Jessica Raine (3) Jessie Cave (2) Jill Halfpenny (4) Jo Stone-Fewings (2) Joanna Bacon (2) Joanna Goodwin (3) Joanna Scanlan (1) Jodie Jacobs (4) Jodie McNeel (2) Jodie Michaels (2) Jodie Prenger (3) **John Heffernan (5)** **John Hollingworth (6)** John Marquez (4) John Owen-Jones (2) John Simm (2) John Stahl (3) Jolyon Coy (2) Jon Lee (3) **Jon Robyns (7)** Jon-Paul Hevey (3) Jonathan Battersby (4) Jonathan Broadbent (2) Jonathan Cullen (3) Jonathan Groff (2) Jonjo O'Neill (2) Jos Slovick (2) **Josefina Gabrielle (6)** **Joseph Millson (6)** Josh Hamilton (2) Joshua McGuire (2) Joy Richardson (2) Jude Law (2) Julia Sutton (1) Julian Ovenden (2) **Julie Atherton (13)** Juliet Rylance (2) **Juliet Stevenson (6)** Juliette Binoche (1) June Whitfield (1) **Justin Salinger (5)** Kacey Ainsworth (1) Karen Archer (2) Kate Duchêne (2) Kate Fleetwood (2) Katherine Parkinson (2) Kathryn Hunter (2) Katie Rowley Jones (2) Katy Stephens (1) Keira Knightley (1) Kelly Price (2) **Ken Bones (3)** Kerry Fox (1) Kevin Kiely (1) Kevin McNally (2) Kevin Spacey (1) **Kika Markham (5)** Kilke Van Buren (1) Kim Cattrall (2) Kobna Holdbrook-Smith (2) Kristin Scott Thomas (1) Lara Stubbs (1) Larry Lamb (2) Laura Donnelly (1) Laura Elphinstone (2) Laura Pitt-Pulford (1) Laurence Belcher (2) Leah Purcell (2) Lee Ingleby (1) Lee Mead (1) **Leo Bill (3)** **Leon Lopez (4)** Lesley Manville (3) Lesley Sharp (3) Liam Tamne (2) Linda Bassett (1) Lindsey Coulson (2) Lindsey Readman (1) **Lisa Dillon (8)** Lisa Palfrey (2) Liz White (2) Liza Sadovy (2) **Lloyd Hutchinson (5)** Lorna Luft (1) Lorna Want (1) Lucien Msamati (2) Lucy Cohu (2) **Lucy May Barker (5)** **Luke Evans (7)** Luke McEwan (1) Luke Norris (2) Luke Treadaway (2) Lydia Leonard (3) Lyndsey Marshal (2) Mackenzie Crook (2) Maggie McCarthy (2) Malcolm Sinclair (4) Malcolm Storry (2) Mandi Symonds (2) Marc Almond (2) Marc Antonin (3) Margaret Tyzack (4) Mariah Gale (3) Mark Dexter (3) Mark Rylance (2) Mark Umbers (3) Martin Freeman (1) Mathew Horne (1) Matt Zeremes (1) Matthew Burton (1) Matthew Kelly (1) **Matthew MacFadyen (3)** **Matthew Markwick (3)** **Matthew Marsh (2)** Maureen Lipman (2) Meera Syal (1) Melanie Chisholm (2) **Melanie La Barrie (3)** Meredith MacNeill (1) Michael Gould (4)

Michael Malarkey (2) **Michael Thomas (5)** Michael Thomson (2) Michael Xavier (2) Michela Meazza (2) Michelle Beck (2) **Michelle Dockery (5)** Michelle Fairley (2) **Michelle Terry (7)** **Mike Bartlett (5)** Miranda Raison (2) Miranda Richardson (2) **Nancy Carroll (8)** Nancy Crane (2) Naomi Bentley (2) Natalie Dormer (1) Natasha Barnes (2) Nathaniel Martello-White (3) Neil Pearson (1) Neil Sheppeck (2) **Niamh Cusack (5)** Nicholas Banks (2) Nick Blood (2) Nick Holder (4) Nicola Walker (3) Nigel Harman (2) Nigel Lindsay (3) **Nigel Richards (5)** Nikesh Patel (1) Nikki Amuka-Bird (2) Nina Sosanya (1) Noel Sullivan (1) Noma Dumezweni (2) Okezie Morro (3) **Oliver Chris (5)** Oliver Ford Davies (4) **Oliver Thornton (5)** Olivia Colman (1) Ony Uhiara (3) Pamela Nomvete (2) Patina Miller (3) Patrick Stewart (2) Paul Clarkson (2) **Paul Jesson (5)** Paul Rattray (2) Paul Ready (4) Paul Ritter (1) **Paul Spicer (6)** Penelope Keith (1) Penelope Wilton (2) Peter Bowles (2) Peter de Jersey (4) Peter Sullivan (3) **Phil Cheadle (5)** Philip Arditti (4) Philip Childs (2) Philip Quast (3) Philip Rham (1) Phoebe Nicholls (4) Phoebe Waller-Bridge (4) Phylicia Rashad (1) Pip Carter (3) Pippa Bennett-Warner (3) Poppy Miller (3) Portia Emare (2) Prunella Scales (1) Rachael Stirling (3) Rachel Weisz (3) Rakie Ayola (1) Rebecca Caine (2) Rebecca Hall (4) Rhys Rusbatch (1) **Richard Corderly (4)** Richard Griffiths (1) Richard Reynard (1) Richard Winsor (2) Ricky Rojas (4) Robert Glenister (2) **Robert Hastie (3)** Robin Soans (4) Roger Allam (4) Romola Garai (1) Ronald Pickup (2) **Rory Kinnear (5)** Rosalie Craig (2) Rosalind Blessed (2) Rosalind Knight (1) **Rosamund Pike (3)** Rosie Samsom (1) Rufus Wainwright (2) Rula Lenska (1) Rupert Evans (1) Rupert Friend (1) Rupert Penry-Jones (2) Ruth Negga (2) Ruth Wilson (3) Ryan Molloy (2) Sam Alexander (2) Sam Cox (4) Sam Crane (3) Sam Hazeldine (2) Sam Heughan (1) Sam Swainsbury (4) Sam West (3) Samantha Bond (2) Samantha Pearl (3) **Samantha Spiro (6)** Samuel Barnett (4) Samuel J Holmes (2) Sara Crowe (1) Sara Stewart (3) Sarah Annis (2) Sarah Goldberg (2) Sarah Smart (2) Sarah Woodward (4) Sargon Yelda. (3) **Scarlett Strallen (3)** Scott Shpeley (1) Selina Cadell (4) Serena Evans (1) Sharon Small (2) Sheila Hancock (2) Sheridan Smith (4) Sian Clifford (4) Simon Bent (1) **Simon Burke (9)** Simon Callow (1) Simon Chandler (4) Simon Dutton (2) **Simon Lipkin (6)** Simon Merrells (1) Simon Paisley Day (3) Simon Russell Beale (4) Sinéad Cusack (3) Siobhan Redmond (2) Sirine Saba (1) Siân Brooke (2) Siân Phillips (1) Siân Thomas (1) **Siôn Lloyd (7)** Sophie Russell (2) Sophie Stanton (2) Sophie Thompson (2) Sorcha Cusack (3) Stanley Townsend (3) Steffan Rhodri (1) Stella Gonet (4) Stephanie Fayerman (2) Stephanie Jacob (4) Stephen Billington (2) Stephen Campbell Moore (1) **Stephen Dillane (3)** Stephen Palfreman (1) Steven Pacey (1) **Steven Webb (4)** Stockard Channing (1) Sue Johnstone (1) **Summer Strallen (3)** Susan Engel (3) Susan Lynch (2) Tamsin Greig (2) Tamzin Griffin (2) Tamzin Outhwaite (3) Tanya Franks (2) Tara Fitzgerald (2) The Lovely Debbie McGee (2) Thomas Sadoski (2) Thusitha Jayasundera (1) **Tiffany Graves (4)** Tim Delap (2) **Tim McMullan (4)** Tim Oxbrow (2) Tim Piggott-Smith (1) Tobias Menzies (1) **Toby Jones (3)** **Toby Stephens (3)** Tom Davey (2) **Tom Goodman-Hill (3)** Tom Hardy (1) Tom Kempinski (2) **Tom Mannion (4)** Tom McKay (1) Tom Mison (4) Tony Gardner (2) Tony Jayawardena (3) Tony Sheldon (2) Tony Turner (4) Tracey Childs (1) **Tracie Bennett (3)** **Trevor Cooper (6)** Valerie Cutko (3) Vanessa Redgrave (1) Verity Rushworth (1) Victoria Hamilton (1) Victoria Hamilton-Barritt (1) Will Featherstone (2) Will Keen (2) **Will Stokes (4)** William Gaunt (2) Yukio Mishima (1) Yvette Robinson (2) Zoe Waites (2) **Zoë Wanamaker (3)** Zubin Varla (2) Ödön von Horváth (1)

0105684