

# REVIEW

DIVERSIONS: ALTERNATIVE ROUTES, THE DANCE HOUSE, CARDIFF BAY ★★★★★

AS A reviewer, when you watch a show you're not expected to sit back and just let it passively wash over you.

You're meant to be making notes on the minutiae, like the quivering light bouncing off a dancer's limbs or how an actor's eyes dart around when they're

about to fudge their lines. We're paid to clock the details, to pay attention.

And yet the truth is some shows affect you so viscerally, scribbling with a pen is no match for them – you actually need something mightier. So, it was a good sign that during *Alternative Routes I*

barely made a note, unless “brilliant” and “cool” and “This is awesome!” count as notes.

First up was *Of Birds And Monsters* from Viivi Keskinen which was dense in its intensity. It opened with the performers having lemons in their mouths as a '40s-flavoured score swirled

around them. As soon as the movements unfurled, foreboding seeped like blood into every step.

Throughout the piece, you feel like you're inside the thick scars of someone's past; the septet of dancers reveal everything but keep you wondering and wanting more.

In contrast, the second piece from Joanne Fong, *How To Use Curiosity In Ordinary Life*, was less dark and more life-affirming, but equally emotion-jacked.

*Alternate Routes* is the best dance show you'll see this year. Full stop.

by Jason Jones

