

Almost forgot to write this one up.Â Oops!



While the title "Theatre Triple Date #2" doesn't convey too much information, it was an interesting night of theatre.Â First up was [Play Maids](#) by ArtEZ Music Theatre and Acting, Arnhem, directed by Mart van Berckel and performed by Margreet Blanken, Anne Freriks and Robin Kuiper.Â The latter two play a pair of maids, Claire and Solange, loosely based on [Jean Genet's The Maids](#), by way of [Grey Gardens](#). Here's an excerpt from the Wikipedia article on [The Maids](#):

Solange and Claire are two housemaids who construct elaborate sadomasochistic rituals

when their mistress (Madame) is away. The focus of their role-playing is the murder of Madame and they take turns portraying both sides of the power divide. Their deliberate pace and devotion to detail guarantees that they always fail to actualize their fantasies by ceremoniously “killing” Madame at the ritual’s dénouement.

In *Play Maids*, these games appear at first to be more playful than anything, but we shall see. Performed in the round (mostly) the set consisted of a sort of wire-frame wardrobe from which hung garments and from which sprouted work surfaces and other accoutrement necessary to the maids’ work. The setting and props were fresh and inspired; the performances frenetic, farcical and fun. Blanken as the matron was marvelous, and her seeming obliviousness lent much to the production.



Perhaps a bit longer than was needed, the entire enterprise was well done and a joy to watch, perhaps more so because of the physical similarity of the two young actresses. I could see this doing well in a Fringe (and, indeed, they will be at [Fringe Amsterdam](#) this September). Interestingly, fashion label [Maison the Faux](#) is listed as a collaborator, for Scenography.

Next up was *De Spectacular Schandelijke van Een Jong Meisje en het Tragische Einde Dat Daarop Volgde*, again from ArtEZ Music Theatre and Acting, Arnhem. Herein a single performer, Laurien van Rijswijk, performs an augmented monologue. I can’t tell you too much about it, as it was all in Dutch, which I don’t speak. I think the gist of the piece was that this young woman is coming into her own as her mother is dying of cancer, but that’s just a wild guess. It did have moving scenes, which I could judge by the waterworks in the audience.

Lastly was *The Sound of Circles*, Codarts Circus, Rotterdam. Ralph Ollinger and Marko Hristoskov conceived and present this piece of juggling accompanied by string bass. It was lovely and well executed. Seemed an odd fit after the earlier entertainments, but it did

leave one with a clear head.