

The Other

Sarah Gignac
OP CONTRIBUTOR

The Roundhouse Community
Centre
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Touchstone Theatre, one of Vancouver's most innovative theatre companies, performed a great service for the artistic community this past weekend by bringing the Montreal-based dance company Pigeons International to town. Their new show *The Other* is a stunning integration of dance and theatre performed with awe-inspiring grace, intensity and passion.

The audience enters the darkened theatre to find a female hunter dressed all in white standing motionless on the stage. The stage is covered with a mosaic of furs, the only constant set piece throughout the entire show. On the other side of the stage lies a figure dressed in tattered furs. As the lights dim and a gentle snow starts falling the hunter begins her arduous journey across the stage to save the figure.

As the scene progresses it fades into the chamber of a queen, who is slowly dressing herself while different items of clothing are lowered from the ceiling. She is unsure of her life with her dwarven king, and travels in search of a hermit to discover what it truly means for a woman to be a woman, and a man to be a man.

These stories are accompanied by several others, all a blending of



time, place, and characters. Scenes flow in and out of each other, creating a beautiful tapestry of images.

The Other is brought to life by an extremely talented group of performers: Celine Bonnier, Gregory Hlady, Anne le Beau, Rodrigue Proteau, Carla Ribeiro, Bruno Schiappa, and Paul-Antoine Taillefer. Performing in a

mixture of English, French, Portuguese and Ukrainian, they combine the poetry of language with the fluidity of movement to create an electric piece of theatre.

The Other is Pigeons International's first production to make it to the West Coast. Hopefully we will be seeing much more from them over the coming years.