

Kris Grogan

"Remembrance Is Not Enough".

The powerful opening line of Marc Rees' latest works Now The Hero.

This play is both provocative and dramatic, not only for its' staging, music and visual presentation, but for the quality of Eddie Ladd's performance.

The beach landing with three different generations of soldiers represented was an inspiring composition which was muted by the unnecessary inclusion of a speedboat, which seemed out of place and an indulgent extravagance.

When the metal soldier was dug out of the sand although it looked dramatic unfortunately a proportion of the audience struggled to see what was happening because there was no structure in place for shorter audience members which took away from their participation.

This was a barrier for some at various other locations and with some thought could have been avoided, thereby enabling all of the audience an equal opportunity to see the whole production.

Our transition from the beach to the second location felt a little clumsy and the chanting to some may have been intended to be inclusive but felt out of place to those of us that did not know the campaign for nuclear disarmament was started by women from Swansea

Language, history and personnel knowledge are barriers to understanding this play in its' entirety.

On arrival to our seats the sculptured Celt before us was intense, his movement although prolonged was stunningly entwined with the powerful sounds coming from the Polyphony choir.

When we were funnelled into the wedding reception you felt the joy in the room, but could also sense a looming darkness.

As we progressed through the rest of the spaces there was a mixture of wonderment from the monks work, sadness at the pyre and the riveting performance in the trenches.

The final scenes were set outside Brangwyn Hall where our activist descended the tower which was spectacular but lacking in context.

In conclusion it was a powerful and evocative well written piece, with one or two hang ups along the way