

Edinburgh Festival Fringe Review – Caruso and the Monkey House Trial (****)

Reviewer: Martin Belk is editor of *ONE Magazine*, contributor to *The Scotsman*, and *The Scottish Review of Books*

Take an actual story from history about a famous singer named Enrico Caruso, which happens to be set in fantastic New York City, add a talented singer/actor Ignacio Jarquin, open it on The Fringe and what have you got?

Great theatre.

Jarquin delivers a multi-faceted, nuanced singing and storytelling drama about the infamous arrest and railroad trial of Caruso. The show uses a minimal set, and superb acting skill to portray characters ranging from an actual monkey, to police and magistrates and Caruso himself. The a capella interludes are delicately performed and appropriate for the scale of the production. This show is thankfully not a loud, gimmick-ridden show. It is an opportunity to see a professional actor use the tools of the traditional theatre to deliver a satisfying, compelling narrative.

Hill Street Theatre

www.carusoandthemonkeyhousetrial.com

Date 11-29 August

Time 15:45