

Studio @ Bakehouse Theatre

Monday, February 20

Following sell out shows at the 2016 Melbourne Fringe Festival, *Can't Be Tamed*, directed by Melbourne-based theatre director Justin Nott, has hit Adelaide like a wrecking ball and its hard to say who's more damaged – the audience or the performers themselves.

Part performance piece part psychedelic pill-popping pussy party, *Can't Be Tamed* begins rather obscurely and the weirdness does not let up for the rest of the show. With no clear structure apart from the obvious costume changes, the story of Miley Cyrus from her days as America's sweetheart Hannah Montana to the pixie-cropped, pig-owning provocateur she is today is told through spoken word passages and hyper-sexualised dance scenes. Performer Danni Ray (who looks distractingly like Lady Gaga) shares the stage with a silent, gimp mask-toting, tuxedo-wearing Disney incarnation for the entirety of the show, a possible implication that the multinational mass media and entertainment conglomerate is the root of all of her current-day problems and well-publicised vices.

With some stand out passages that really make you think (the marijuana-fuelled dissertation on modern day feminism is a stand out), it is hard to decide whether or not the writers are celebrating or criticizing Cyrus, with some passages seemingly ridiculing her behaviour and others applauding it. The sheer number of props used in the performance is excessive and whilst some perfectly compliment the on-stage theatricalities, the fact that the discarded items are left where they land is distracting and results in the stage being littered with items by performance end.

A show about a singer that strangely – and to its detriment – does not include any singing, *Can't Be Tamed* is a crazy, disjointed performance that really could centre around any wild, outspoken celebrity trying to form a real-world identity after being ruthlessly tossed around in the 21<sup>st</sup> century fame machine. Recommended for fans of modern day performance art as opposed to fans of Miley herself, this show will leave you feeling peculiar and perplexed, like you've been bang(erz)ing your head against a wall (can't stop, won't stop) and come to with a newfound appreciation for pop princesses turned subversive rebels.

3 stars

*Can't Be Tamed* continues at The Bakehouse Theatre until Sunday February 25<sup>th</sup>.