On Friday 21st February 2020, I attended Rationale Arts Charity’s Research and Development evening of their up and coming show “Trust in Care” at Derby Theatre. The show presented the problems faced by the young adults in the care system. The challenges faced by Social Workers. The way processes (red tape) is used to help the carers and those in care and how it gets in the way in and of itself. The performance took the audience through a journey of emotions, awareness and love.

During the Question and Answer section of the evening we learnt that the young adults in care were the Creative Consultants of the show. They giving practical feedback and guidance to the dancers. They would provide insights of what was unrealistic, if certain events were inaccurate or if the dancer did not truly capture how the young adult was feeling. After receiving this feedback, the dancer would work with the young adult to refine the scene.

The performance incorporated many different creative mediums, which allowed for an immersive experience. There was dancing, spoken word, drama and visual projections. It was an excellent performance by all involved. For me notable credit goes to Chris Brayford who played the human embodiment of “red tape”. The metaphor to bring “red tape” to life and give it human characteristics and its own struggles and then to display this in choreography - is genius.

A highlight of the show was when the young adults in social care were able to have the stage and perform their own artistic pieces. Crispin a visually impaired young adult, was excellent. He danced with and without the use of a contact staff in a reenactment of multiple scenes the Rationale Group has previously performed earlier in the night.

I have attended previous performances by Rationale such as “In my shoes” in 2011, “The Unit” in Breakin’ Convention 2012, and “The Break Up” at Breakin’ Convention 2016. Rationale’s research and development process has always been extremely thorough in their previous work and this was no different. I am incredibly excited to see the full show and can’t wait for it to be completed. Wishing all those involved lots of fun and joy in the development of this thought provoking piece.

With sincerest thanks to have been able to be a part of this R&D discussion.

Warmest Regards,

Tim Bei

beitimothy@gmail.com

@tim.bei