

What Girls Are Made Of – Review by Ciaran Shearer

I saw *What Girls Are Made Of* at Macrobert Arts Centre on the 17th of May. *What Girls Are Made Of* is written by Cora Bisset, who stars in the play, and is produced by Raw Material & Traverse Theatre Company in association with Regular Music.

The story centres around Cora herself and her challenging life with its multiple ups and downs, from touring with Radiohead and Blur, to struggling to have a family and a relatively normal life.

The use of music throughout the show created an effective atmosphere, this was helped by the use of instrumentals that allowed the audience to enjoy the music but still follow Cora's narration. Getting the music level right was, I assume, crucial for this show as it was 'Gig theatre' which is intended to be like a gig atmosphere while still telling a story. Gig theatre is relatively new but this show was effective and I am interested to see what Gig theatre can bring in the future.

The use of comedy throughout the show was very well timed and was received well by the audience gaining many chuckles throughout.

All of the actors performed well and were able to shift characters seamlessly, allowing the audience to not lose place.

There was little movement the show however, all the actors had seemingly only three positions sitting, standing or playing their instruments, there were glimmers of movement however it quickly went back to sitting or standing in place.

The set was very simplistic and remained the same throughout the show, this may be an intention of the Gig theatre vibe but it left me slightly unsatisfied.

The constant use of microphones was a hinderance to the show, in the beginning and other parts of the show it was effective, however their use became novel and oversaturated as a result of their use throughout the entirety of the show.

Overall the play was very enjoyable and presents a good future for 'Gig theatre'.

4/5 Stars