

MULTIMEDIA REVIEW



MARIO DEL CURTO USINE C

Martin Zimmermann's Everyman antics are carried out on a circular set, amid a complex series of cardboard cut-outs.

Consumed by our appetites and our ambition

Gaff Aff's set and tone transform

KATHRYN GREENAWAY
THE GAZETTE

Sleep, work, consume. Repeat.

The Swiss duo Zimmermann & de Perrot – first names Martin and Dimitri – take a close look at the human tendency to be over-consuming creatures of habit in the DJ, dance, circus and art installation piece *Gaff Aff*, which continues at Usine C tonight and tomorrow.

The piece proposes that, as well as tending to be over-active consumers, we tend to

become consumed by a drive to succeed, fit in, be like the other.

In Tuesday's opening-night performance, Zimmermann was us. Dressed in a suit and tie, he walked to work and then walked home to his cardboard apartment, lined with the latest in got-to-have-it items.

The activity played out on a circular, rotating plateau – a direct design reference to the vinyl spinning at de Perrot's DJ installation downstage left. Throughout the performance, de Perrot manipulated two turntables loaded with original music. His superb spinning technique elevated the action and, at times, stole the show.

Gaff Aff unfolds as a series of vignettes – each one, to some degree or another, involving an element of the cardboard cut-out set. The cardboard – a metaphor for the fragility of one man's mental state and the frailty of society in general – is a crucial player, and the tricks employed to transform its shape and meaning become more detailed as the piece progresses.

On opening night, Zimmermann's moments of classic clowning – at one point he leaped into the audience to play clown maestro and control the applause – interrupted his portrayal of extended mental disintegration as he became stuck on the turn-

table of life and spun out of control.

As intriguing as it is uneven, *Gaff Aff* has a '60s "happening" feel to it and is best approached in a relaxed stream-of-consciousness state.

Zimmermann & de Perrot perform *Gaff Aff* at Usine C, 1345 Lalonde Ave., today and tomorrow at 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$28 for regular admission, \$25 for seniors, \$21 for ticket buyers age 30 or younger. For more information, call 514-521-4493 or go to www.usine-c.com. To purchase tickets online, go to www.admission.com.

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