



# Haunted

2010, 4 stars, Dance and Physical Theatre

Venue: Dance Base

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By Anna Price

As the audience take their seats, three figures in flowing white costumes stand among them, using vocals and instruments to set the haunting tone. "Haunted" is a mesmerising dance performance based on demonic possession and the trio provide a live musical accompaniment. Just two dancers perform Haunted: Laura Schandelmeier and Stephen Clapp of Dance Box Theatre. They complement one another perfectly and the performance is all the more powerful due to the intensity of their relationship. Their movements are fluid and graceful, despite telling what could be a violent or traumatic story. Various scenes are enacted: using a ouija board, feeling a presence and the possession and exorcism itself. At times a voiceover relays news reports of the demonic possession which inspired "The Exorcist" film, a chilling reminder that this is based on a true story. The musical accompaniment is superb, every bit as engaging as the dance itself. Ranging from percussion to a cappella soul, it undoubtedly enriches the performance. It also adds another visual element since the musicians watch over the proceedings like a ghostly presence, visible to the audience but not acknowledged by the dancers until the finale. All in all, Haunted is a powerful performance which will stay with you. An added bonus is that Dance Base guarantee that if you don't enjoy it (or any other of their shows) you will be offered a free ticket to see a different show instead. A great deal which enables you to take a chance on something you may not ordinarily watch, so if you enjoy dance, or just fancy checking out something a bit different, this is worth a look.

**4/5 ★★★★★**